

Anger over US refusal to help rebels

Schwarzkopf apologises for Gulf outburst

From Susan Ellicott in Washington and Michael Theodorou in Nicosia

GENERAL Norman Schwarzkopf has apologised to President Bush for suggesting that he opposed the decision to stop the Gulf war. The allied commander, who said on Wednesday that he had recommended that America "continue the march" and annihilate Iraqi forces, told reporters yesterday that his choice of words had been poor.

General Schwarzkopf's apology came as it emerged in Washington that the president's decision to agree a ceasefire in part reflected growing concern among American soldiers at the carnage being wreaked on the retreating Iraqi army. Now Mr Bush is facing increasing anger at home over his refusal to intervene as rebels are crushed by President Saddam Hussein.

Kurds yesterday retreated from the northern oil city of Kirkuk, which they held for a week. Loyalist forces were said to be in control of the south, and hundreds of Iraqis are fleeing to American lines with tales of atrocities.



Schwarzkopf sorry "for poor choice of words"

Political commentators say that after 42 days of bombing, America has an obligation to play a role in what happens next, particularly as Mr Bush has repeatedly incited the Iraqis to rebellion.

In holding an impromptu press conference at his Saudi base yesterday, General Schwarzkopf underlined the growing controversy over America's handling of the end of the conflict. The allied commander sought to modify remarks during a television interview in which he said: "My recommendation had been to continue the march. We had them in a rout and we could have continued to reap great destruction on them. We could have made it a battle of annihilation." He was immediately rebuked by the defence secretary, Richard Cheney, who said that all the military leaders had endorsed the decision to cease fire.

Yesterday, General Schwarzkopf said: "I felt terrible that my words were being used to cast aspersions on the decisions made by the president or for that matter, the military. The president called me up to tell me 'forget it'. I apologised to the president. I said 'I am extremely sorry that a poor choice of words on my part in any way would result in dishonour cast upon you'." With hindsight, he would change the word "recommendation" to "we initially planned". He had been consulted on the decision to stop the war and had agreed with it.

But his comments yesterday raised questions about how a man with a proven media savvy, a military discipline and a genius-level IQ could slip up on a point of vocabulary. Administration officials were unlikely to be delighted that the general's remarks

would almost certainly focus national media attention for a third day on a possible split between military and political officials at a time when the White House is being criticised for declaring neutrality on the rebellion.

The presidential spokesman, Martin Fitzwater, said on Tuesday that American forces would not act to stop the Iraqi government from using helicopters against insurgents. But fixed-wing aircraft would be shot down and the use of chemical weapons would not be tolerated. That policy was ridiculed by Richard Cohen in *The Washington Post*. He wrote: "The murder of innocent civilians by artillery and conventional weapons is permitted, but not their death by poison gas. As if to die in conformity with the Geneva Convention changes matters any."

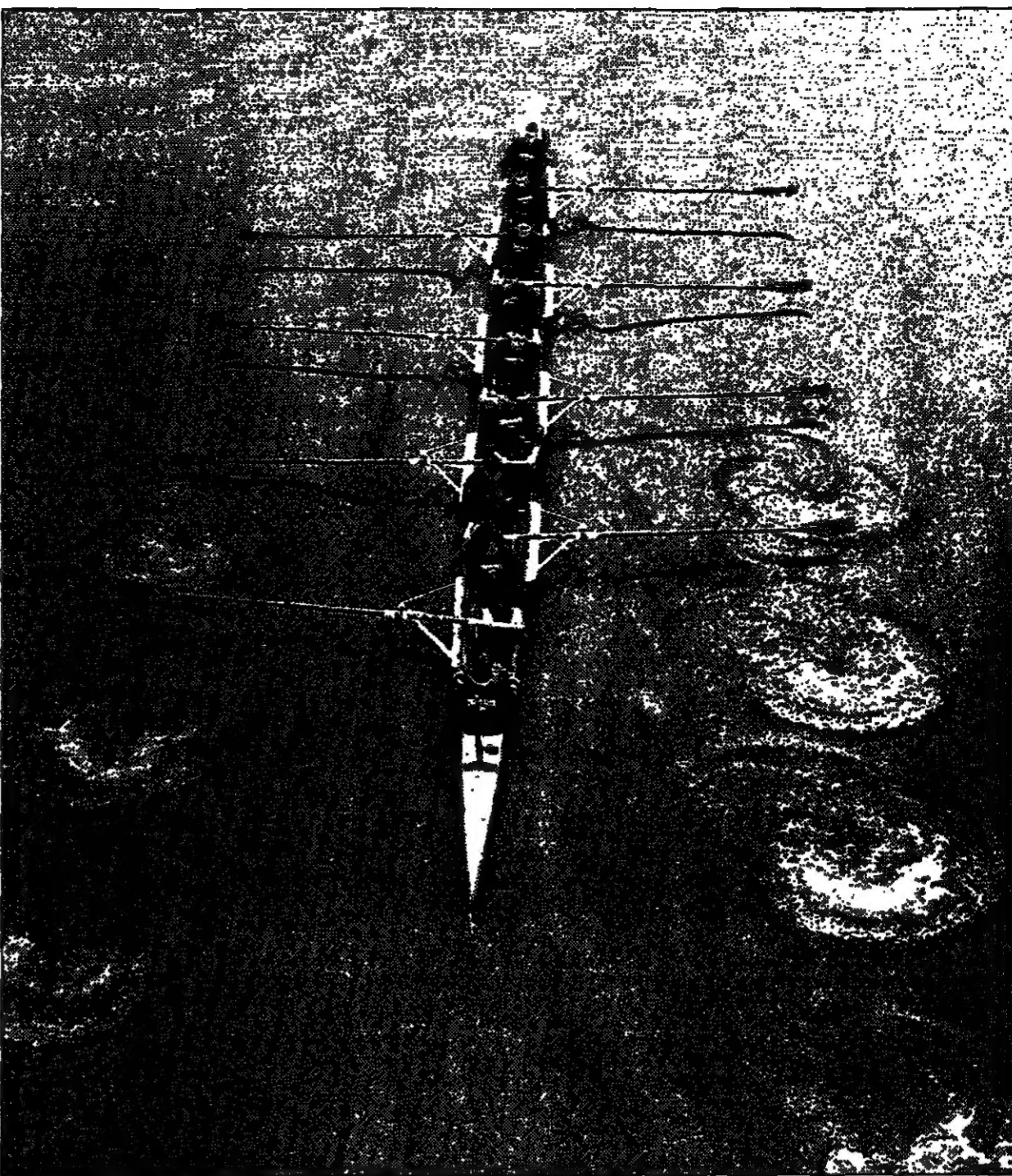
Officials have also made clear that the administration hopes that Saddam will be replaced by another figure from the ruling establishment. "To this inglorious end, we are ready to turn our face away from the wholesale slaughter of innocents and to abandon the last best hope of the beginning of freedom in Iraq," the conservative William Safire wrote in *The New York Times*. Anthony Lewis, another *Times* columnist, likened the American neutral stance to the Soviet inaction when the Nazis crushed the Warsaw rebellion in 1944.

A White House spokesman said yesterday that the administration was deeply concerned about the human suffering in Iraq but insisted: "The issue of internal unrest in Iraq is an issue that has to be settled between the government and the people of Iraq." America had no UN mandate for intervention in Iraq.

But Sen. Jaber, leader of the London-based Free Iraq Council, complained: "After urging us to get rid of Saddam, they left us with him and now he's bombing us with American-built helicopters."

Iraqi rebels fleeing to American lines at Safwan after Iraqi forces recaptured the last big town held by rebels in the south yesterday also appealed to the allies. "We need help to get rid of the butcher," Ghazi Abdul-Razzak said after escaping from Samawa as he fled.

Continued on page 22, col 8



Making waves: Oxford on the Thames yesterday preparing for the 137th university boat race today. Preview, page 33

Bookies back a loser in racing levy

A bigger slice of the bookmakers' profits could go towards funding their sport, Richard Evans reports

MPs examining the funding of horse racing want bookmakers to contribute more towards the cost of running the sport, which generates over £4 billion in bets a year.

The Commons select committee on home affairs says that the bookmakers would have to meet the cost themselves, rather than passing it on to punters in higher taxes. Bookmakers are estimated to make annual profits of £150 million from racing. Although the committee's report on the racing levy system is not due to be published until May, the all-party group of MPs met for three hours this week to discuss its content.

The levy, equivalent to less than 1 per cent of betting turnover, will provide an estimated £38.5 million this financial year. The money, which helps to fund prize money, course improvements and security services, is paid by punters and included in their 10 per cent tax on bets. Bookmakers do not, make any direct contribution to the 10 per cent levy.

Poor prize-money is a deterrent to owners, stable staff are paid low wages, and some courses could be forced to close. In other leading racing countries the profits from a Totalisator monopoly go back to the sport.

It is understood that MPs are investigating how the betting industry could contribute more, without threatening the livelihood of smaller bookmakers. The committee was left impressed by the betting industry's justification for including VAT costs — worth £20 million a year — in the punters' 10 per cent tax deductions.

Roger Gale, Conservative MP for Thanet North, said: "One of the things I found almost offensive was the bookmakers' attitude that the levy was a subsidy rather than a payment for a service. Without racing there would not be any bookmakers."

Maradona faces ban for using cocaine

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DIEGO Maradona, the world's richest and most famous footballer, was yesterday found to have used cocaine.

Maradona, aged 30, captain of Argentina and Naples, faces a ban from Italian football of between six months and two years.

Italian Football Federation officials yesterday disclosed that Maradona had failed a second drug test in Rome. Traces of cocaine and its derivatives were first found in a urine sample taken after the Italian league match against Bari on March 17. The outcome of the second test was announced after an examination at the National Institute for Sports Medicine.

The federation's disciplinary committee is expected next week to decide Maradona's punishment, which is almost certain to end his career in Italy. He had planned to end his association with Naples, which began in June 1984, and either return to Argentina or move to Japan.

Maradona has been the most brilliant player of his generation, and the most controversial. In 1986, he was the scorer of the "hand of God" goal that helped to beat England in the quarter-finals of the World Cup. Argentina, under his captaincy, went on to win the tournament. He led Argentina to the World Cup final last year.

Since joining Naples, for £5 million, the world record, Maradona has turned a little-regarded into a giant of Italian football. Some estimates put his career earnings as high as £20 million.

Details, page 38

Hundreds more Jaguar jobs must go, unions told

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAGUAR last night said that hundreds more jobs would have to be cut from its workforce on top of 1,500 redundancies already planned as its car sales in Britain plummet.

Workers were called together on assembly lines to be told that several hundred more voluntary redundancies would be needed by the end of the year, in addition to nearly 1,500 already agreed with unions, if the business was to remain financially viable.

Unions estimate that more than 500 jobs could go in the toughest year for Jaguar since the firm faced faced bankruptcy in 1980. Ray Lissaman, the Amalgamated Engineering Union's Coventry secretary, said the cuts would fall heavily on the company's 8,500 assembly workers.

Jaguar said: "The recession is clearly hurting every luxury car manufacturer, particularly those like us who make most of their sales in the UK and US where things have been very tough indeed over the last few months." Jaguar's fortunes have plunged since the heady days of 1984 when the company became the centrepiece of the government's privatisation programme with a successful £300 million flotation.

The euphoria was short-lived and two years ago, Ford bought the company for £1.6 billion. Sir John Egan, then chairman and chief executive, admitted that the firm could not generate enough cash as an independent business to fund the huge development and investment programmes needed to keep pace with German and Japanese rivals. He left the company shortly afterwards to be replaced by Bill Hayden, a long-serving Ford executive.

Since then, problems have deepened, with financial losses last year of about £50 million, a programme of redundancies and early retirements, and short-time working over the past month.

Output, once set at 70,000 luxury cars and limousines annually, will be only 35,000 this year, the lowest for seven years. Apart from recession, Jaguar sales have been affected by new luxury taxes in the United States.

In Britain, the difficult start to the year was compounded by the Budget increase in value-added tax, which increases the price of an XJ6 saloon by between £500 and £900, and rises in taxation on company car users. Nine out of ten Jaguars are sold to company fleets.

Jaguar sales in the first two months of the year were down from 2,592 in 1990 to 1,350 with no prospect for revival without a radical change in the economic climate.

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GOOD WRITING IN THE TIMES

PILGRIMS
Ruth Gledhill discovers Bunyan fulfilled: more pilgrims making more progress than ever before Page 15

COLLECTING
Sarah Jane Chisholm finds "the Spink" heading a resurgent Spink and Son, a well kept art market secret Page 17

SPORT
Laura Thompson on Rupert Very-Big-Thick (Eton and Scott) Herb from California. Yes, it's Boat Race day Page 33

EASTER OUT EASTER IN

Francesca Greenwood on Easter gardens to visit, Francis Bissell suggests some holiday dishes for eating at home SATURDAY REVIEW

A discerning guide to places of interest, urban and rural, over the holiday PAGES 14, 15

EASTER MONDAY

John Gummer, Marion Shoard and Simon Gouley on the future of Britain's countryside

Clocks change

British Summer Time starts at 1am tomorrow when clocks should be moved on to 2am. They will revert to Greenwich Mean Time on October 27.

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Shot girl's mother in plea for no reprisals

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE mother of one of the three people murdered in an attack on an Ulster sweet shop appealed yesterday to fellow Catholics to resist the urge to retaliate. Mary Rennie, the mother of Katrina, aged 16, cried as she said: "I don't want any retaliation. Nothing is going to bring her back and I want no mother to suffer like me."

Katrina's friend Eileen Duffy, aged 19, and Brian Frizzell, aged 29, died on Thursday in the attack by Protestant paramilitaries on the shop in Craigavon, Co Armagh. Katrina's father,

Killings admitted, page 3

Details, page 38

Halifax chases debts

By LINDSAY COOK AND BARBARA ELLIS

BRITAIN'S largest building society is using a debt collection agency to tackle mortgage defaulters who have handed in their keys because their homes are worth less than the outstanding loans.

The Halifax Building Society plans legal action against several former borrowers for losses incurred on repossessed properties.

Action against those who will not pay, as opposed to those who cannot pay, is to be

co-ordinated by the Council of Mortgage Lenders, which will arrange the swapping of information on defaulters to ensure they cannot easily attempt to buy another property with a different lender.

Jim Birrell, the Halifax chief executive, emphasised that cases would not involve people facing genuine long-term hardship from illness or redundancy.

Yesterday, the *New York Post* followed up, reporting that Mr Maxwell, who has taken personal charge of the *News*, had angered residents of Greenwich, Connecticut, by trying to install a helicopter pad on the roof of his new mansion there.

Meanwhile, from its lofty height, the *New York Times* observed that its down-market brethren now appeared to have embarked on a "bare-knuckled" feud. As for the headlined baby: it survived.

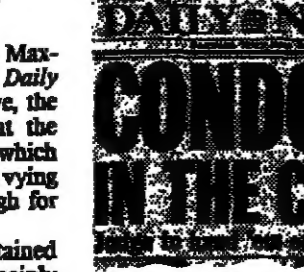
Business news, page 23

Dog bites dog after Miracle Max takes over

From CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

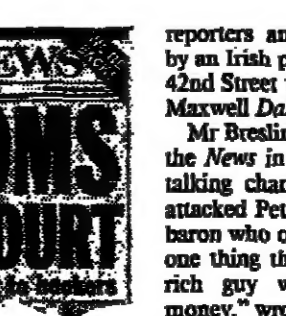
ONLY a fortnight after Robert Maxwell resurrected the *New York Daily News* from the edge of the grave, the publisher now finds himself at the heart of a snarling dogfight in which the three tabloid newspapers are vying for survival in a city big enough for only two.

New Yorkers have been entertained by a bout of mud-slinging mainly involving New York's newest press lord, or "Miracle Max" as his paper calls him, and Jimmy Breslin, the doyen of the old-time columnists. Headlines such as "Bully-boy Breslin: out-of-control hypocrite" have even distracted attention from more traditional items such as the "Mob Slaying in Brooklyn" and "Mom Aged 12 Throws Baby in Trash Compac-



Front page news New York style

tor". The facts are simple. The rebirth of the *Daily News* — the biggest of the three tabloids — after a long strike threatens the existence of the *New York Post* and *Newsday*, the recent upstart on the scene. Mr Breslin opened the war for *Newsday* on Monday, two days before 200 striking

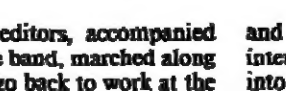


Front page news New York style

reporters and editors, accompanied by an Irish pipe band, marched along 42nd Street to go back to work at the Maxwell *Daily News*.

Mr Breslin, who made his name on the *News* in the 1960s as the tough-talking champion of the underdog, attacked Peter Kalikow, the property baron who owns the *Post*. "If there is one thing that I cannot stand, it's a rich guy who doesn't have any money," wrote Mr Breslin, suggesting that Mr Kalikow would have been wise to let his own newspaper report that he was having trouble with creditors.

The *Post* had its star columnist, Mike McAlary, open its offensive on Wednesday with a volley that dismissed Mr Maxwell as a "foreigner who has put the words 'Forward with New York' on the paper's masthead



Front page news New York style

and announced a series of backward intentions that would run the paper into the ground."

Newsday also stepped up its guerrilla campaign against Mr Maxwell, which opened earlier this month with reports of alleged discontent among the crew of the Lady Ghislaine, Mr Maxwell's yacht.

Yesterday, the *New York Post* followed up, reporting that Mr Maxwell, who has taken personal charge of the *News*, had angered residents of Greenwich, Connecticut, by trying to install a helicopter pad on the roof of his new mansion there.

Meanwhile, from its lofty height, the *New York Times* observed that its down-market brethren now appeared to have embarked on a "bare-knuckled" feud. As for the headlined baby: it survived.

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Council spending plans may face yearly test at polls

By DOUGLAS BROOM AND KERRY GILL

MINISTERS are considering the introduction of annual municipal elections to force councillors to put their spending plans to the electorate each year.

The proposal, which is already Labour party policy, is disclosed by Chris Brearley, the senior civil servant responsible for local government finance at the environment department, in an article in today's *Municipal Journal*. Although he gave no details, it is understood that the plan would involve a quarter of the seats on district councils, which now set the poll tax in England and Wales, coming up for re-election every year.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said: "The only policy that this government has not ditched from the Labour party is fair rates. I await the promised white paper with considerable anticipation to see if it is a full hand."



Blunkett: Labour policies "flicked" by Tories

MP urges reform of inquest powers

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

REFORM of the powers of coroners' courts was demanded yesterday by an MP after an inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death on the 95 football supporters killed in the Hillsborough disaster.

Martin Flannery, Labour MP for Hillsborough, said that the verdict was utterly unsatisfactory and that the powers of coroners' courts were too limited to deal with tragedies with large loss of life.

The jury's decision will also revive debate within the legal profession about the future of coroners' courts, whose powers have been steadily eroded. Some lawyers believe that coroners are too wary about verdicts imputing blame such as "lack of care" and "unlawful killing" and think they should be required to conduct broader enquiries. Others, however, argue that there should be a further pruning of coroners' powers, so that their writ should be limited strictly to establishing the "how, when and where" of suspicious deaths.

One difficulty at coroners' courts is the unavailability of legal aid for victims' families. Coroners have also been criticised for their reluctance to empanel juries.

Relatives and friends of those killed at Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield have been appalled by the outcome of the 80-day inquest. The director of public prosecutions has ruled out bringing charges against South Yorkshire police, whose handling of the crowd was strongly criticised by Lord Justice Taylor in his report on the disaster.

Mr Flannery said: "Clearly there was blame somewhere but no jury likes to say so and that is unacceptable." He said there should be an appeal against the verdict, followed by a searching review of the powers of coroners' courts.

spending (CCSS), the government target against which poll tax figures set by councils are measured, would "probably live on" under the new system.

This year's target figure was £380 but the average poll tax for England was £392 before the Budget announcement of a £140 cut in all poll tax bills. A white paper on the replacement for the poll tax will be published in the third week of April and is expected to suggest a property tax adjusted according to the number of people living at each property.

Mr Brearley said that a comprehensive revaluation of property could be avoided by using "beacon" properties in each area to set the valuation for bands of different types of homes. A register of individual payers would probably not be needed, he added.

Well-placed sources insist that much work remains to be done on the white paper and Mr Brearley's remarks tend to confirm the impression that the ministers have yet to agree firm options for reform.

It emerged yesterday that the government's decision to scrap the poll tax was causing serious problems for councils in Scotland where the community charge was introduced a year before the rest of Britain. Strathclyde, Scotland's biggest region, which is still owed more than 40 per cent of this year's poll tax income, saw payment levels rise last autumn only to fall sharply when the end of the poll tax was signalled.

Non-payment levels are already higher than last year in most Scottish local authority areas, including Strathclyde, Lothian, Tayside, Fife and Central. About 300,000 people in Scotland have been issued with sheriffs' warrants for non-payment and councils now face fresh confusion caused by new bills having to be prepared to reflect the £140 head poll tax reduction.

Highland region, which had to destroy 70,000 bills due to be sent out last week, said that new poll tax demands would not reach the public before June, with the first payments expected a month later.

Writing a radical prescription

The health secretary expects the NHS reforms to mean more informed choices, Jill Sherman reports

WILLIAM Waldegrave wants to be remembered as the first minister of health who was allowed to talk about health. On the eve of the implementation of the national health service reforms, Mr Waldegrave is impatient to move on. The financial and management systems needed for the changes were, he said, in place, ensuring a smooth launch.

Fifty-seven hospitals will opt out of health authority control on Monday and 306 GP practices will be able to shop around for hospital care. Hospital managers have signed thousands of contracts for their services, marking the start of an internal market where hospitals compete for patients.

The months of confrontation with other political parties and with the medical profession are largely over. Doctors have been falling over themselves to build bridges with Mr Waldegrave and there is a concerted effort, within the health service at least, to make the system work. By 1993 he expects all hospitals, with a few exceptions, to have become self governing.

That is not enough, however. "Now we have a proper managed system what are we going to do with it?" Mr Waldegrave's answer, which will be spelt out in a green paper in May and a white paper in the autumn, is to develop an effective health strategy for England. "We should decide what our needs are and why we are so bad at some things and good at others. Enoch Powell, in his book about the health service, said no health minister is allowed to talk about health."

Mr Waldegrave said that the nation must wake up to the fact that health care had to be rationed and priorities set. Previous health secretaries have always tried to avoid the debate about who should live and who should die, but Mr Waldegrave, a former fellow of All Souls, Oxford, has adopted this as his next intellectual challenge. Now that health authorities and GP fund-holders had more information about the services



Waldegrave under Walpole's eye: "There will be more noise but that will be a gain"

hospitals provide and the costs of procedures, they were more able to make rational choices, Mr Waldegrave said. "We are going to move from rationing decisions taken in mysterious ways to a system where there is going to be a much more open debate about where resources should go. Since any sane politician has to admit there is going to be a cash limit, we should look at establishing priorities. There will be more noise and argument but that will be a gain."

The noise is already being heard. Hospitals are offering special deals to districts and GP fund-holders to allow their patients to jump queues. "Yes, there will be GP fund-holders who win better treatment for their patients." Was he condoning deliberate inequitable treatment? "There is accidental inequitable treatment now. This system provides mechanisms for the gains to be explicit and imitated more quickly."

Mr Waldegrave emphasised that he was not immediately going to issue a list of which treatments were affordable and which were not. However, his green paper, on which he is working, with Michael Peckham, National Health Service director of research and development, will suggest health targets which health authorities, social services and government departments should be working towards.

The green paper is likely to include targets to reduce diseases for which Britain has a particularly bad record, such as heart disease and lung and breast cancer. It might also include targets to reduce road traffic accidents, and to encourage earlier diagnosis of diabetes to avoid blindness and amputations, and better

management of childhood asthma. The paper will also suggest mechanisms as to how these targets, once agreed, can be achieved.

Health promotion, screening, health education and the use of optimum treatments would all be advocated. Measures in other departments, such as environment, will be an integral part of the green paper. Poor housing, for example, was linked with poor health and the fact that the number of asthma cases had stopped decreasing could be linked to pollution. Mr Waldegrave was also concerned about passive smoking and its effect on children.

He is determined that the reforms, supported by an effective health strategy, will improve not only efficiency but also the nation's health.

Leading article, page 11

Court plea by Orkney parents is rejected

By KERRY GILL

The four families at the centre of the Orkney child sex abuse allegations yesterday failed in their second court appeal to have their children returned home pending next week's judicial hearing of the claims.

Sheriff David Kelbie, sitting at Kirkwall Sheriff Court, dismissed the appeals and upheld the decision of the Orkney children's panel earlier this week to keep the nine children in care for a further 21 days. On Wednesday, he will begin assessing the evidence before taking further evidence from the children at Inverness.

The children have been in care on the Scottish mainland since being seized from their homes on South Ronaldsay by social workers last month. Medical evidence produced at the children's panel hearing stated that none had been physically or sexually abused.

Esther Rantzen, the television presenter, has visited Orkney to offer support to the parents. A BBC spokesman said that Miss Rantzen had been invited to Orkney to speak to the parents in her capacity as a founder of Childline.

Flat stormed to free baby

A baby who was held hostage at knife-point for five hours yesterday was released after police stormed a flat in north London. As officers forced their way into the flat in Kiver Road, Upper Holloway, the suspect jumped from the back of the building and was arrested in the garden.

The six-month-old boy was not injured but was taken to hospital with his mother for examination. Police said there may have been an attempt to flood the flat as water was found dripping into the ground-floor flat below.

Barrister killed

Sir Geoffrey Peacock, a senior barrister who was president of the War Crimes Court in Singapore in 1946, has died after being hit by a car near his home at Petworth, West Sussex. He was 71 and leaves a wife and two daughters. During the last war he served with the Royal Artillery and the Royal Lincolnshire Regiment with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

£140bn 'wasted'

Revenues from North Sea oil and privatisations, totalling £140 billion, have been squandered by the government, John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said last night. Money and the opportunity to develop "a productive economy and a decent society" had been squandered in "the wasted decade" of the Eighties, Mr Prescott told the annual conference of the Co-operative party, in Hull.

Three for trial

Three Northern Ireland Protestants are to go on trial in Paris accused of conspiracy for the preparation of terrorist activities and of receiving stolen goods. Noel Little, aged 41, Samuel Quinn, aged 42, and James King, aged 51, allegedly members of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, were arrested in 1989 in a Paris hotel while allegedly negotiating the sale of stolen missile parts.

Campoli dies

Alfredo Campoli, the Italian-born child prodigy who went on to become a band leader and a renowned concert violinist, has died, aged 84. With his family he moved to London when he was five. Campoli collapsed and died on Wednesday on his way to play bridge. The funeral will be held on April 8 in Thame, Oxfordshire.

Obituary, page 12

Easter pilgrims

Two hundred pilgrims carrying heavy crosses arrived at Walsingham, Norfolk, yesterday after walking more than 100 miles to the Shrine of Our Lady. Tomorrow, they will dance in the streets to celebrate Easter.

Ruth Gledhill, page 15

CORRECTION

Contrary to the impression which may have been given in Thursday's *Times*, there is no evidence whatsoever to suggest that there is any link between Abdul-Amir al-Ghazzi, the owner of Heavening Hall who recently died, and President Saddam Hussein.

By the way, the Times crossword puzzle for 29.00. Clues: 1 Down: 10 letters, starting with 'C', ending with 'S'. 2 Across: 8 letters, starting with 'T', ending with 'N'. 3 Down: 6 letters, starting with 'P', ending with 'E'. 4 Across: 4 letters, starting with 'L', ending with 'E'. 5 Down: 3 letters, starting with 'A', ending with 'E'. 6 Across: 5 letters, starting with 'M', ending with 'S'. 7 Down: 7 letters, starting with 'B', ending with 'G'. 8 Across: 6 letters, starting with 'H', ending with 'E'. 9 Down: 4 letters, starting with 'W', ending with 'D'. 10 Across: 5 letters, starting with 'F', ending with 'E'. 11 Down: 3 letters, starting with 'I', ending with 'E'. 12 Across: 4 letters, starting with 'S', ending with 'E'. 13 Down: 5 letters, starting with 'G', ending with 'E'. 14 Across: 6 letters, starting with 'L', ending with 'E'. 15 Down: 4 letters, starting with 'P', ending with 'E'. 16 Across: 5 letters, starting with 'M', ending with 'S'. 17 Down: 7 letters, starting with 'B', ending with 'G'. 18 Across: 6 letters, starting 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'How did they do it? Have they no conscience at all?'

UVF admits killing two Catholic girls and man as reprisal

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE mothers of two teenage Roman Catholic girls shot dead by a Protestant paramilitary group spoke yesterday of the horror of losing their children in killings that have chilled Northern Ireland.

The two girls, Eileen Duffy, aged 19, and her friend Katrina Rennie, aged 16, were shot at close range as they sat behind a counter in a mobile grocery shop in the Catholic Drumbray estate in Craigavon, Co Armagh, on Thursday evening.

Their killer, who also shot dead a man in his late 20s after he was ordered out of the van and forced to lie on the road, is

a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force, which said the attack was a reprisal for an IRA attempt on the life of a policeman's widow in Londonderry a week ago.

Eileen Duffy's mother said that her daughter had planned to buy new furniture for the family home with her earnings from the store. She expressed disbelief that her daughter should die in this way.

"How did they do it? Have they no conscience at all? What kind of human beings are they? They must have no thought for anybody, nothing. They must have no thought—they think they are going to

live forever themselves. What right have they to take someone else's life?" She was speaking at her home on the estate where the killing happened.

Katrina Rennie's mother, Mary, appealed for there to be no retaliation—a plea which seems always to fall on deaf ears in Northern Ireland. "There's nothing going to bring her back," she said. "I don't want a retaliation or anything like that, because I want no mother to go through what we are going through."

Mrs Rennie's husband John said that her daughter's killers should be put down. "To me they are vermin and should be treated as vermin," he said. "The killers had gained nothing, he said. "A life wasted. Look at what it gained them. All they are going to get out of it is a wee bit of enjoyment that they killed a Catholic. Or the other way round, the other side says they have killed a Protestant. There's no enjoyment in that for anybody."

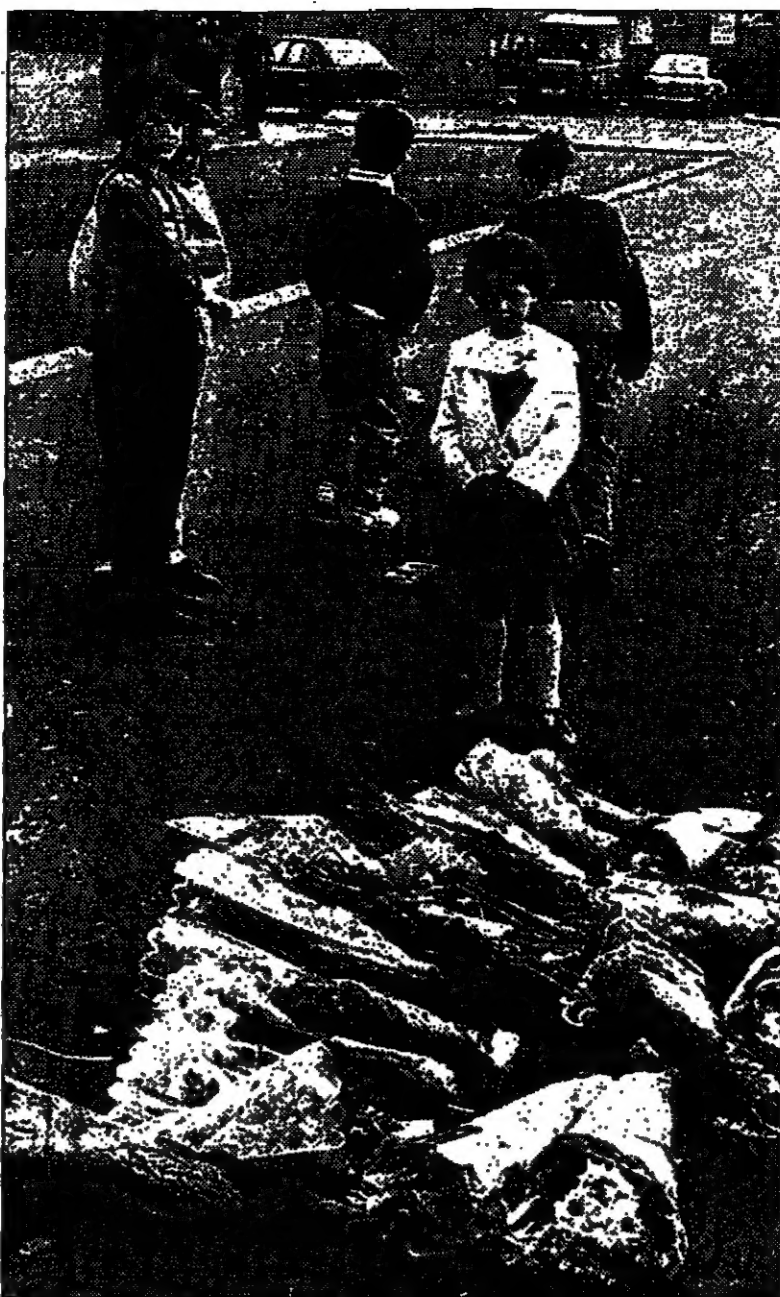
Katrina's brother said his family had never been involved in the troubles. "We have never been political or religious or really biased or bitter, but now this has happened and there's nothing we can do to stop it. There seemed no way of preventing similar tragedies in future, he said. He did not want police and soldiers patrolling the streets because they ended up getting killed.

The killings provoked condemnation across the political spectrum and from church and community figures. Hugh Annesley, the RUC chief constable, described the murders as a "new low" in paramilitary violence. He said he had no doubt these responsible for these "obscene murders" would be brought to justice and he appealed to people to come forward with information.

In a statement issued to the Press Association, the UVF, using its cover name, the Protestant Action Force, said that it carried out the shootings in revenge for an IRA attack on the wife of a murdered police sergeant in Londonderry last weekend.

The UVF said Eileen Duffy, the only one of its victims it named, was a republican. This was immediately dismissed by security sources. The statement went on to issue a grim warning that until the IRA publicly withdraws its threat to kill Protestants no matter what their occupation, premises owned and used by republicans would be regarded as legitimate targets.

Thursday's shooting happened shortly before 8.30pm when a dark-coloured Ford van drew up outside the mobile store. A man got out and walked into the shop where he opened fire, killing the two girls instantly. He then dragged a male customer, named yesterday as Brian Frizzell, outside where he forced him to lie on the road and then shot him.



The scene: As flowers and wreaths are left yesterday close to the scene of the murders by the UVF, friends of the victims pay their respects. The victims: Eileen Duffy (top), Katrina Rennie and Brian Frizzell



Major is attacked on exam comment

JOHN Major was at the centre of a political storm last night after he said that common sense mattered more than academic qualifications. Opposition MPs said that the prime minister's comments made mockery of his declaration that education was high on his political agenda.

In an independent television interview with Sue Lawley, to be shown on Monday, Mr Major said that he had never been "over-impressed" by academic qualifications. "I know an awful lot of people who have an armful of academic qualifications—and if professors are looking in, they will forgive me—they are wholly useless, most of them," he said, adding: "It really has to be a combination of intelligence and common sense if people actually want to achieve things, and often the common sense is more important."

A month ago, Mr Major told a Conservative conference that education led his agenda, and was "the key to the Tory ideal of a mobile, dynamic and diverse society". Last night, Jack Straw, shadow education secretary, said of the interview: "It is an astonishing admission and it shows that the prime minister's concern is only skin deep." The Liberal Democrat education spokesman, Matthew Taylor, said: "From a government that has given us new exams at seven, 11, 14 and 16, we now learn that qualifications do not matter."

All-in schools attacked, page 6



Mr and Mrs Rennie at their home yesterday

Protestant killers using IRA tactics

THE Ulster Volunteer Force is believed by police to be a well-organised group responsible for 15 murders in counties Tyrone and Armagh since January last year (Edward Gorman writes).

Protestant paramilitary groups, of which the UVF is the most violent and active, have been easy to infiltrate because they operate in the Protestant community, from where most police officers and Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers and their families also live. Taken with their often inept methods, arrests have usually quickly followed crimes. Senior police officers say, however, that the UVF and its counterpart, the Ulster Freedom Fighters, are increasingly copying IRA tactics to combat infiltration.

Officers believe that there may be fewer than 20 UVF members operating in mid-Ulster and that the group is divided into tightly-knit smaller groups, again similar to the IRA. As a result, some members may have no idea of the identities of other members and may not know who carried out killings.

While the police probably know or strongly suspect who is involved, they have so far been unable to pin charges on anyone because of lack of evidence and because relatives and friends of those involved probably do not know that their son or father is active in a paramilitary organisation. In

the mid-Ulster area, the latest cycle of UVF killings began in January last year when Martin Byrnes, aged 28, a Catholic taxi driver, was found slumped at the wheel of his car on a motorway slip road near Lurgan, Co Armagh. He had been shot in the head.

There followed a series of shootings, often of other taxi drivers working for Catholic firms or of people who the UVF said were connected with Sinn Féin or the IRA or who had been convicted for terrorist offences carried out by republican groups.

The UVF attacks usually follow murders by the IRA, but in spite of often being sectarian in nature usually generate less condemnation. The result is often a frightening spiral of killing.

In the past month the UVF has increased its activities in mid-Ulster, murdering seven Catholics. Last month its members shot dead four men outside a pub at Cappagh, Co Tyrone in what the UVF called an operation against the "command structure" of the IRA in Armagh and Tyrone. Thursday's killings, which even in a community numbed with violent death has shocked so many and provoked particularly strong condemnation, was claimed by the UVF to be in retaliation for acts of violence which even it finds impossible to justify.

Archers village faces new threat

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to transform the village used as the model for Ambridge, fictional home of the radio Archer family, into a 2,000 home satellite town may be revived eight months after being formally dropped.

The proposal to resurrect the plan has been prompted by a separate scheme to build a bypass around the real-life village of Hambury, near Droitwich. The bypass is part of a scheme to build 100 homes on two sites in the centre of Hambury, which at present has just 75 houses. Residents fear that the bypass will provide access for a new and much larger development. One of the grounds on which the plan to build a satellite town at Mere Green, near Hambury, was rejected last summer was that it would overload the existing road network.

While Hambury has been fighting the latest 100 home plan, Wychavon district council has found it impossible to find alternative sites for the new homes that would have been provided by the satellite town. There has been fierce opposition to proposals to add small numbers of homes to existing towns and villages in the area. The Hereford and Worcester structure plan calls

for at least 1,250 new homes to be built in the area in the next decade.

Wychavon council officials have told parish councillors in Hambury that unless local opposition to a piecemeal solution abates they will have no option but to revert to the satellite town plan. With a new bypass to improve communications, Hambury would be a favourite site once more, the officials said.

The Hambury action group has come to see its high profile campaign against the satellite town which its leader, Michael Thompson, said had become a model for surrounding villages. "Every village is now saying it does not want more houses. But if they try to revive the satellite plan we will fight it tooth and nail," he said.

In that eventuality, Mr Thompson and his fellow villagers plan a national campaign, appealing to *Archer* listeners. Hambury is the destination for thousands of devotees on tours of "Archer Country" organised by the recently formed group *Archer Addicts*. The society, set up by cast members and listeners, provides members with a quarterly village newspaper and arranges the visits.

To some pension companies, average is just another word for mean.

Compared with The Equitable's return the 'mean figure' achieved by the average in the survey seems an all too accurate description.

And, had you retired on 2nd April last year with an Equitable ten year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan, your fund would have been a staggering 69% higher than had you been with our worst competitor.

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Personal pension fund for 10 year with-profits policy, annual contribution of £500 as published by *Planned Savings* June 1990. Figures refer to a self-employed man aged 45 retiring on 2nd April 1980.

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Planned Savings survey of regular contribution, 10 year, with-profits personal pensions - June 1990.



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Private jails may double inmates' time out of cells

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PRISONERS in a Humber-side remand centre may be out of their cells for 16 hours a day if, as expected, the running of the centre is contracted out to the private sector.

The Home Office is devising a unique contract to ensure that its first experiment in privately run jails is not ruined by overcrowding. Most prisoners at The Wolds remand centre near Hull will be guaranteed not to have to share cells if the centre becomes privately run. Ministers see the trial as the start of a large programme of prison privatisation.

The contract clause against overcrowding should help to ensure that standards at The Wolds, due to open next spring, will be much higher

than in comparable state-run remand centres. One firm says it may be able to get inmates out of their cells for 16 hours a day, about double the time achieved in the best state-managed remand units.

All prisons in England and Wales have a notional population limit called a certified normal accommodation, but the limit is generally exceeded, sometimes grossly so, in remand prisons. Remand inmates suffer the worst prison conditions, locked up in crowded, insanitary cells for long periods with little opportunity to exercise, work or receive education.

Under the contract being drawn up for The Wolds, designed to hold 300 adult men, the Home Office will be legally barred from over-filling the jail. The maximum limit is not yet known, but it is understood that it will not be much above 300. If that is so, most prisoners will not have to share cells.

Firms intending to bid for the contract accept that the absence of population pressures will help them to produce a model regime. But they say other factors will also be important, including staff quality, improved management and the performance-based nature of the contract. It is not known if the Prison Department will tender.

UK Detention Services, one of the prospective bidders, said it was vital that the Home Office should insist on high standards for inmates and close monitoring of the contractor. "If we cannot prove to everyone's satisfaction that we are doing a difficult job well, the experiment will have failed and so shall we," Nicholas Hopkins, one of the consortium's directors, said.

"We expect to be contracted to attain high standards, but above those we shall set our own, higher company targets. For instance, all inmates will have the opportunity of being out of their cells for at least 16 hours a day working, studying, training or exercising," Mr Hopkins said.

The consortium says that it would mainly recruit people with no previous experience of working in jails, although some managers are likely to be former prison department officials. Initial training would take about six weeks, but each employee would also have one week a year in-service tuition. The firm plans to use psychological tests in recruitment to help to weed out unsuitable candidates such as people with latent aggressive tendencies.

Disclosure of the plans to prevent overcrowding has angered the Prison Officers' Association, which opposes privatisation, and penal reformers. Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "All prisons should have to keep remand inmates out of their cells as much as possible. But it seems this experiment is going to be biased in favour of the private sector."

Benefit rulings 'made in ignorance'

By PETER MULLIGAN

CIVIL servants often fail to apply the law correctly and use insufficient evidence when deciding claims for social security and unemployment benefits, the chief adjudication officer says in his annual report.

Ken Bellamy said that progress on recommendations which he made last year had been slow. Standards among adjudication officers remained low with many caught between good adjudication and the need for speed.

Mr Bellamy's brief was to monitor how officers reached decisions, whether the evidence was adequate, the facts correct, the law correctly applied and whether the decision had been accurately recorded. He calls for targets to be set, adding: "It cannot be right that so many adjudication officer decisions are [frequently] taken on insufficient evidence or by applying the law incorrectly."

"Too often time is wasted reviewing and revising a decision on account of a piece of information which ought to have been sought before the claim was originally decided. Too often time is wasted on an appeal to an appeal tribunal when the original decision was clearly wrong and ought to have been revised."

Mr Bellamy acknowledges that big changes are under way in the social security department for the introduction of the new benefits agency next month. He said that the changes would allow greater specialisation in adjudication which should raise standards. Management should ensure that the standards were maintained.

He notes, however, that a better performance in recording decisions on income support and social fund claims has been offset by a worse performance in applying the law. "It was to be expected that adjudication officers would experience some difficulty when coming to terms with the new income support legislation but the problems identified last year have worsened."

However, Mr Bellamy finds some improvements, with a good standard of adjudication on social fund payments for maternity and funeral expenses. Adjudication on retirement pensions and widow's benefit was also good. Tony Newton, the social security secretary, has said in a parliamentary answer that there was a considerable variation in the standards of adjudication.

Annual Report of the Chief Adjudication Officer for 1989-90 on adjudication standards. (Stationery Office, £6.30)



Uncertain future: dancers with repertoire, *Glacis Variations* by London City Ballet take a break at Sadler's Wells Theatre in London as they prepare for what could be their last tour. The company is rehearsing a new ballet in their repertoire, *Glacis Variations* by Istvan Hertog, to the music of Martin (Simon Tait writes). Two weeks ago the company, founded 13 years ago and one of the most successful British middle-range groups, announced it would have to close because the Arts Council had refused it a revenue grant. The tour began on Wednesday at Exeter, Derbyshire, and finishes in Glasgow on June 15, when the company is likely to close. Representatives of the company are due to meet Lord Painsford, chairman of the Arts Council, for talks next week when they hope for a change of heart.

Bishop decries the conversion of Jews

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTIANS should not be singling out Jews for conversion, the Bishop of Oxford says. Instead they should be repenting for teachings that helped to pave the way for the Holocaust.

The Right Rev Richard Harries, who advises the archbishops of Canterbury and York on interfaith relations, especially Christian-Jewish relations, was speaking after Jews for Jesus, an American organisation, announced plans to open an office in London. The organisation aims to inform Jews of its belief that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah.

Bishop Harries, speaking on BBC's *Heart of the Matter* to be broadcast tomorrow, says: "In relation to Jews we need to be sensitive. Singling out the Jews for a hard campaign of conversion is a very unfortunate way of understanding the Christian mission to the world." He urged the church to reflect on its "terrible history" - what is called the teaching of contempt for Judaism - which prepared the way for the Holocaust.

"We need to ask why did that terrible event happen in the heart of so-called Christian Europe and what is the responsibility of the Christian church. We need to repent and re-educate ourselves in our attitude to Judaism."

However, Rev John Fieldsend, of the Church's Ministry Amongst the Jews, said: "I find it offensive that the church should be told that, because of the Holocaust, we should not

Law firms delay entrants' training despite optimism

CITY law firms learnt this week that one of their number, D.J. Freeman and Co, is deferring the start of articles for the 21 trainee solicitors who were due to join the firm this September.

It is the first public confirmation of reports circulating in the profession for months that firms are delaying, or even dropping, the training of new entrants. Ironically, the news comes as law firms are predicting that the end of the recession is in sight.

A survey by Garfield Robbins, legal recruitment consultants, of 50 London firms found that 67 per cent were more optimistic about the future than before Christmas. Eight out of ten firms thought the economy had hit "rock bottom" as far as their workload was concerned and 28 per cent said that they were seeing an improvement, or had not suffered in the first place. Among those who had not yet seen an improvement, 14 per cent predicted that they would do so within three months, while 24 per cent put the time at between three and six months.

However, the survey confirms the uncertainty of the market for law trainees: two out of three of the firms surveyed (64 per cent) said it was too early to predict prospects for trainee solicitors qualifying in September, and only 15 per cent indicated definitely that they were hoping to keep on their trainees. A further 21 per cent would not comment. The Law Society

Frances Gibb looks at law firms in the second report on how recession is affecting the professions

estimates that there are more than a thousand would-be solicitors on the market who have not managed to secure articles or who have had them withdrawn, a big increase in the total of two years ago.

The Law Society is compiling a list of cases of articles being withdrawn. Although there has been official notification of some 17 such cases, unofficial estimates are much higher. Roger Jones, a Cardiff solicitor who is chairing a working party on the withdrawal of articles, said: "It is purely a rough guess, but I estimate that as many as 250 offers of articles have been renegeed. It is not unusual for firms in severe financial problems, mostly medium-sized firms, to decide they can no longer afford their commitment."

The recession has not only affected those embarking on a legal career. It is standard practice in a number of firms to take on more articled clerks than they intend to retain: in a shrinking market, those newly trained solicitors are now being released with no hope of finding another foothold.

Alistair Dougall, of Quarry Dougall recruitment, said: "The state of the market for

newly qualified is dire. This time last year, the recession could already be felt, with firms making more stringent requirements when they advertised. But as things now stand, we do not have any instructions from firms to advertise vacancies."

There is, however, no sign of a fall-off in demand from students to enter a career in the law. More than 5,000 students attended the recent Law Fair in London and firms at the fair confirmed the view of others, that it is short-sighted to cut back on trainee quotas when the recession may be short-lived.

Although some areas of law such as commercial property have suffered badly, overall work for many City firms is booming, particularly in such areas as insolvency.

Plans are in hand to mitigate the worst effects of the recession for redundant solicitors. An initiative on retraining courses is being planned by the Young Solicitors' Group.

The Law Society's training committee is discussing measures to counter firms' decisions to lay off trainees. Withdrawing articles is not a breach of professional rules. It could be a breach of contract and that may soon be put to the test.

The working party is drawing up plans for the licensing of firms that offer articles. They would be expected to follow good practice guidelines, with the revoking of a licence as a last-resort sanction.

Miners reject fight to save Welsh pit

Miners yesterday voted not to fight a British Coal plan to close their pit. Men at Penallta colliery in Mid-Glamorgan rejected a call by National Union of Mineworkers to vote for a review procedure in an attempt to save Penallta, employing 600 men.

Ron Stote, the NUM lodge secretary, said: "The men were not happy about voting against union recommendations, but they could see no future at the pit."

Penallta's closure will leave just three pits in the South Wales coalfield, employing fewer than 1,000 men.

At Trebarris, Mid-Glamorgan, yesterday, 400 miners marched behind a Salvation Army band to mark the last shift being worked at the 120-year-old Deep Navigation mine, which British Coal says is now uneconomic. Miners at Betws colliery, near Ammanford, Dyfed, learnt that 250 jobs must go to safeguard it for three years, leaving only 98.

Flights offer attracts 5m

About five million applications have been received from around the world for the British Airways frequent flyer offer, the airline said yesterday.

A draw takes place tomorrow for the 50,000 free seats on all international flights on April 23 being offered in an effort to lift the airline out of a downturn due to the Gulf war and worldwide recession. Coupons must be in by close of business today.

Drug alert

Holidaymakers were put on alert yesterday after a package of cocaine valued at £25,000 was washed ashore at Fort-winkle, near Looe, Cornwall. Customs officers said that the drug could kill and urged holidaymakers to keep children away from any packages found on beaches. A spokesman said: "Cocaine is extremely dangerous and can get into the system through a tiny cut or even through sweat."

Pill-box plea

A campaign is under way to save second world war pill-boxes. Colin Russell, planning officer of West Somerset council, wants the preservation of 50 lock-out posts on the district's coastline. "We want them to become listed buildings and preserved as part of our historical heritage," he said.

Boy's outing

Robert Binnie, aged four, was yesterday found in a wrecked car at Colchester, Essex, after slipping out of his home 75 yards away to play as his family slept on Thursday night.

Cows killed

Eight cows were electrocuted when rats gnawed through an electricity cable at Milnthorpe, Cumbria. The cable fell onto a chain which became live, killing the cows when they stepped on it.

Bishop's walk

The Right Rev Robert Williamson, Bishop of Bradford, is taking a 300-mile, month-long hike around his diocese, visiting 60 churches.

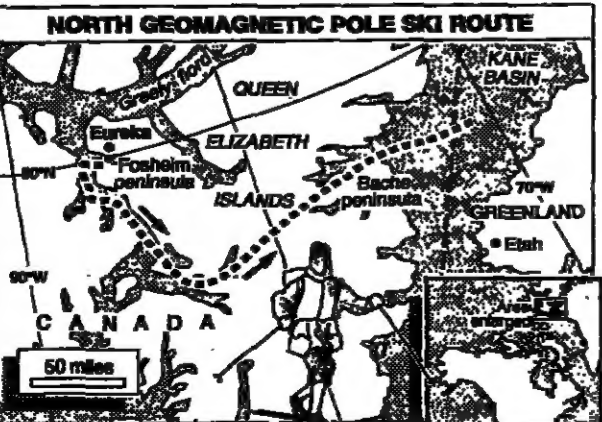
Explorers to ski the Arctic wastes

By PETER VICTOR

BRITISH explorers set off next month on the first unsupported expedition to the north geomagnetic pole.

Ray Shaw, aged 43, a company director, and David Hempleman-Adams, aged 33, a production director, will make the 230-mile journey from Eureka, Canada, to the Kane Basin on skis. They will take supplies, mainly food and communications equipment, weighing about 100lbs, by sled.

The two men, who hope to cover ten miles a day, will have no dogs, snowmobiles or air drops of supplies. On the way they will collect scientific data for archaeological, geomagnetic, geological, and industrial research. A third



team member, Peter Praine, aged 49, will man the radio and satellite tracking equipment at base camp. Among the hazards Mr Shaw and Mr

775 miles from the geographic north pole, which is at 90 degrees north. Geomagnetic north, a point set by international agreement, is 79.2 degrees north 71 degrees west. In 1983, Mr Hempleman-Adams failed to reach the geographic north pole after a 230-mile solo trek. The following year he became the first to reach the north magnetic pole, a point separate from the north geomagnetic pole, without support.

Mr Shaw, however, has no polar experience and said that the most dangerous thing he had done was to take part in the Italian balloon grand prix. He decided to go because "you get to 40 and you think, 'what have I done with my life?' My children think I'm mad."

Hempleman-Adams will face is that of sea ice breaking up as temperatures increase from minus 40 to minus 25 degrees Celsius. The journey will end

facilities on offer. Travellers in France face a similar dilemma of whether to abide by the recommendations of Michelin, with its red rocking chairs and rosettes, or to follow *Gault Millau* with its penchant for *cuisine inventive* and its awards of red chefs' toques for *nouvelle cuisine*.

Even British hotel guides, which rely on the reports of readers to compile their subjective lists, are limited. "We see no point," the *Good Hotel Guide* said, "in lowering our standards to recommend an establishment as the 'best available'."

Hotel guides get no stars, ribbons or rosettes

By ALAN HAMILTON

IF YOU are contemplating a weekend break, beware how you choose your hotel because, according to the Consumers' Association, the British hotel classification industry is a muddle.

Organisations as diverse as the English Tourist Board and the RAC - not to mention the association itself - befuddle the traveller with stars, crowns, ribbons and rosettes in their attempts to guide him to the best hotel. But it simply causes confusion. "These schemes are

flawed because they are not comprehensive, not independently financed and not consistent," *Holiday Which?* says. "None of the schemes covers even half of the hotels in Britain, and the best-run hotel in an area may not have been inspected by any organisation."

Tourist boards and motoring organisations all make a charge for inspection or listing which, the magazine says, means that the traveller gets a self-selected list of hotels that want to use the various grading systems to advertise themselves. Most grading systems are

more quantitative than qualitative, counting the number of bedrooms with en suite showers rather than assessing the quality of service, food and welcome.

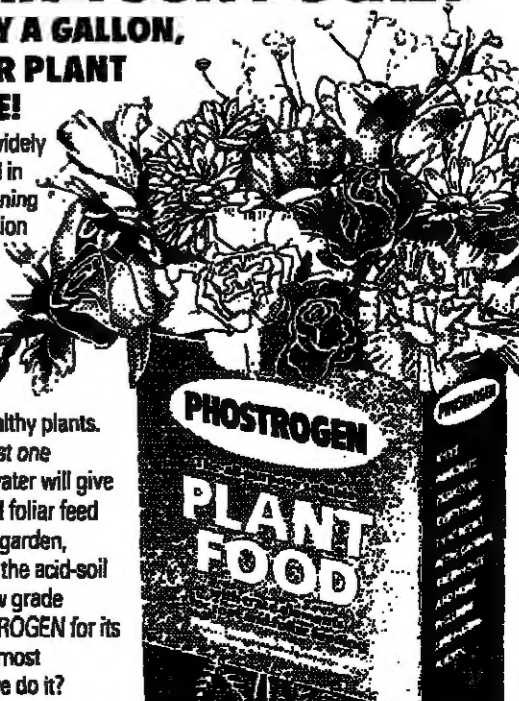
The association wants a national hotel grading system, but as a first step wants to see the crown grading system, which is operated independently by the Scottish, English and Welsh tourist boards, at least made consistent. It also suggests that the boards make inspection compulsory so that all accommodation is covered, and for inspections to consider quality as well as the

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Tory report calls for end to comprehensive schools

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE comprehensive education system will have to be abandoned if the government is to raise standards, according to a confidential paper submitted to the Conservative manifesto group on education. The document from Edward Lister, chairman of education in the Thatcherite stronghold of Wandsworth, south London, underlines the mounting hostility on the

Tory right to all-in schooling. It says it is "seriously flawed" and should be replaced by a combination of academically selective schools and institutions specialising in vocational and technical subjects. A copy of the paper, passed to *The Times*, says: "A major cause of poor educational performance is the comprehensive school. Until it is removed as the main type of

school available to most people standards cannot be raised to any marked extent." The Wandsworth paper was sent to the manifesto group chaired by Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, at the end of January and appears to have influenced its deliberations. The group's report, now with the prime minister, is understood to favour a big expansion of grant-maintained schools. Mr Clarke has indicated that he wants to allow such schools to change to grammar or specialist status if parents and heads wish.

Mr Lister's paper argues that all-in schooling commonly fails because its attempts to be "all things to all men" are "patently unrealistic". He maintains that in inner city areas the neighbourhood comprehensive only reinforces existing patterns of social deprivation. With the passing of the urban grammar school, opportunities for pupils to better themselves are too often denied.

The comprehensives' "mistaken ideological obsession with equality" has led to a levelling down of facilities for pupils. It has also spawned mixed ability teaching causing staff to have unacceptably low expectations of pupils. Mr Lister says that lack of money is not the real issue. All too often, it is an alibi for poor performance. Finally, the near monopoly of comprehensives has meant that for all the government's emphasis on parent and pupil power, real choice in the system has been "diminished virtually to extinction".

Teachers vote on test boycott

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRITAIN'S largest teachers' union will decide at its annual conference today whether to boycott national curriculum tests due to be introduced in May for pupils aged seven. It is likely to be a close vote.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the union was against the legally-required tests in their present form. He said: "They impose an additional burden on teachers, impede and inhibit effective teaching and could be used to falsely and inad-

equately contrast one school with another."

He said that the widely supported demand for a boycott, which will be opposed by the union's moderate executive, reflected the resentment of the union's 190,000 members at the imposition of the tests in mathematics, English and science. Teachers had no objection to monitoring a child's progress and reporting it to parents but that should be done through continuous assessment by the classroom teacher. The executive will

argue that a boycott could be impractical and expose individual teachers to the threat of disciplinary action leading to dismissal. Mr McAvoy said: "We will mount a campaign to find the best way to bring parents along with us to end testing in this way."

The executive will ask the Scarborough conference tomorrow to approve strike action if the government refuses to restore negotiating rights removed by Kenneth Baker as education secretary in 1987.



Steam age sale: model railway enthusiasts have a chance to buy the real thing with the offer for sale of the Laverdale line in Isfield, East Sussex. The purchaser, however, must have over £1 million to spare for the nine-acre complex of railway buildings, rolling stock, two restaurants and a house. The present owner bought the station in 1983, running the line as a tourist attraction

Estate agents see rise of 0.5% in London prices

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

HOUSE prices in Greater London have increased in the past three months for the first time since September 1988, the estate agent Bernard Marcus reports in a survey to be published on Tuesday.

The agent, which has 50 offices in the region, also reports cases of gazumping, that ugly feature of the property market, because demand exceeds supply in some areas, a phenomenon noted too by Winkworth, another leading London agent.

That suggests that the housing slump in London, the first area in Britain to suffer when the boom burst, has ended. Estate agents, normally the most optimistic of people, remain cautious, but they believe an upturn is near and that it will spread slowly to other parts of the country.

Robin Paterson, managing director of Bernard Marcus, who has in recent months said that the market had a little way further to go down, now believes it has bottomed out. "Our figures show that there has been an increase of 0.5 per cent in property values in the last three months. There has also been an increase in the volume of sales from about 100 a week last year to 150, but that is still 40 per cent below the level in 1988. But we expect that for the whole year prices will increase by 4 to 5 per cent."

The main increase in activity has come from first-time buyers. The shortage of supply in this sector, of houses worth up to £250,000, has led to the

first cases of gazumping since the boom of the late 1980s.

Giles Hoskins, manager of Winkworth's Notting Hill office, confirms that the market has picked up, particularly among first-time buyers. Most of the buyers are cash or cash and mortgage buyers, with very few having a property to sell. "So there is no chain, and at the moment we do not have enough properties to offer waiting buyers. As soon as a quality, realistically priced property comes onto our books, immediately there are people clamouring to buy. With such competition, gazumping has returned to the residential property market, although house prices do still remain at a sensible level, rarely rising above the initial asking price."

Across London, Winkworth says that the fall in interest rates and the Budget have brought a cautious confidence to the housing market. Viewings have doubled, with increasing numbers showing a genuine interest in buying, but the recovery is patchy.

"Despite a general feeling that the worst of the recession is over, the public is volatile, uneasy and cautious, waiting for further confirmation that interest rates will stay down before they commit themselves to a mortgage or a higher mortgage than the one they already have. Although confidence does appear to be returning, albeit slowly, to the housing market, the threat of unemployment hindered its progression," the group said.

Penalties for rogues

THE government has acted to curb unscrupulous practices by estate agents.

As Parliament rose for the Easter recess, Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, announced orders under the Estate Agents Act 1979 imposing penalties for offences including failing to declare a personal interest, discriminating against purchasers not accepting financial services from the agent, misrepresentation about a prospective purchaser and failing to send a client written details of offers.



Leigh: estate agents' malpractice banned

£1m boost to World Service

THE BBC World Service starts reshaped radio news and current affairs programmes today. The £1 million changes, announced yesterday, include a second daily edition of the flagship news and current affairs programme *Newsnight*, and new financial and business programmes, as well as extra world news bulletins.

A funding increase from the government of 6 per cent in real terms over the next three years made the improvements possible, the BBC said. John Tusa, the World Service managing director, said: "The fact that Parliament has given us the resources to boost our coverage to this extent represents a tremendous vote of confidence in the role of World Service radio, so visibly demonstrated yet again during the Gulf war. These enhancements are the biggest in our 60-year history."

The World Service, with broadcasts in 38 languages, reaches 120 million listeners.

Owls get a centre of their own

A NEW national centre for owl conservation, in Wollerton Park, near Aylsham, Norfolk, will open to the public today (John Young writes).

The centre has been established by the Hawk and Owl Trust, and includes an exhibition devoted to the conservation of birds of prey, particularly the barn owl, which used to be common in most parts of Britain but is now an endangered species. In the last 50 years the number of nesting pairs in England and Wales has declined from about 12,000 to an estimated 4,000 today.

Barn owls feed mainly on rats, mice, voles and shrews found in rough grassland. The increasing use of rodenticides has destroyed much of their natural prey, and many of the barns and trees that provided their nesting sites have also disappeared. Because they fly low in search of food, many hundreds are killed by cars and lorries.

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*The charge of 44-4p per call, including VAT, covers up to two enquiries.

Japan gadget

'Red Prince' retires as Laos pursues the path of reform

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN VIENTIANE

THE "Red Prince" of communist Laos, Prince Souphanouvong, the 81-year-old veteran revolutionary who helped to lead the victorious armed struggle against the American-backed Royal Lao government, retired from all his party posts yesterday and said a future multi-party system here would "depend on the people".

Sitting beneath a portrait of an oriental-looking Marx and Lenin, and wearing a navy white suit of the kind favoured by luminaries of the ruling Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the prince was given an ovation as his retirement was announced at the party's fifth congress. Party officials promised to continue Western-style economic reforms in Laos, an impoverished, landlocked nation of four million with the lowest per capita income in Asia.

But the party leader, Kaysone Phomvihane, aged 70, while admitting that the party had shown "a great number of weaknesses and shortcomings which must be resolved immediately", insisted that it would retain its leading role. He also enhanced his position by becoming president, instead of secretary-general, of the party; he is already prime minister.

The unpopular mayor of Vientiane, General Sisavat Keobounphanh, was removed



Souphanouvong: there is "only one communism".



from the politburo. He has been criticised for filling offices in the capital with relatives and conducting allegedly dubious business deals and joint ventures, including possibly illegal logging, with Thai companies.

Ironically, the party congress was held inside the leadership enclave and Kilometre Six which, when it was the American housing and school compound prior to the communist victory in 1975, was known as Silver City. The American chargé d'affaires attended the closing session, as the Laotian leaders and foreign delegation heads, including party leaders from Vietnam and Cambodia, sat beneath a bust of the late Vietnamese leader, Ho Chi Minh. There was no British representative as Britain closed its embassy in 1985 for economic reasons.

For the first time in years, a Chinese party representative sat on the rostrum with Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Soviet colleagues as evidence of a nervous coming together of the communist world in Asia after socialism in Eastern Europe has collapsed. As evidence of the new openness in Laos, Western correspondents were able to attend a party congress for the first time.

Prince Souphanouvong was clearly retiring with honour. He has been in ill health in recent years, but he was looking spry as he came out of the congress hall and chatted with correspondents. The Vietnam war years, when he lived in caves under bombardment by American B52s carrying the conflict into Laos, had left no marks.

Reminded of the coming elections in Albania and asked if he could foresee a multi-

party system in Laos, the Red Prince replied: "That depends on the people." But he added: "There are not several communisms, there is only one communism. We cannot change the nature of communism, we can only modify it in the way we wish."

Western diplomats who monitored the three-day congress, the first for five years, say that the Lao party seems set on its liberalising course, as far as the economy is concerned, while keeping political developments under tight control. The basis of the economy is agriculture and in recent years land has been returned to individual peasants who can now pass it on to their offspring.

Diplomats say, however, that there are still about 33 political prisoners, including three who called for a multi-party democracy last year. However, tens of thousands of former Royal Lao soldiers and officials have been released from re-education camps and former refugees are being encouraged to return.



Forced out: A Coloured family prepares to leave Orania in South Africa under the orders of the pro-apartheid Afrikaner Volkswag (AV), which has bought the town and plans to make it an all-white Afrikaner homeland. The Coloured people of the desolate northern Cape province settlement believe they are the victims of a new strain of apartheid. For the 64 of so families who had made Orania, on the banks of South Africa's biggest river, the

Orange, their home, its purchase spells disaster and the destruction of their community, residents say. Last year the ultra-right-wing AV, headed by Carel Boshoff, the son-in-law of apartheid's grand architect Hendrik Verwoerd, bought Orania, a former government waterworks installation 90 miles south of Kimberley. Now the 400 or so people of Orania, which they call Grootewag, have until April 1 to leave their homes and move elsewhere.

Jeremiah Visagie, a resident, said he was confused about the situation, especially after President de Klerk's announcement that all remaining apartheid legislation would be scrapped by the end of June. "Our people here do not have any place to go to... We don't have any safe haven," he said. Thys Fick, the unofficial leader of the seven white families in Orania, said: "All the blacks have homelands - why can't whites have one?" (AFP)

Organiser of Bush landslide dies at 40

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and the Republican Party suffered a serious loss yesterday when Lee Atwater, the controversial figure who masterminded Mr Bush's landslide presidential victory in 1988, died at the age of 40 after a year-long battle against a brain tumour.

Mr Atwater, Republican Party chairman until the later stages of his illness, was one of the shrewdest political minds and most aggressive campaigners in Washington. He engineered the wholesale desertion to the Republicans of blue-collar Democrats in the late 1980s through his ruthless exploitation of "wedge" issues. Mr Atwater's presence on the team was central to Republican hopes of recapturing control of Congress.

"He practised the art of politics with zeal and vigour and I was very proud of him, proud to serve with him," said Mr Bush, who described himself as "heartbroken" after hearing of Mr Atwater's early morning death.

Obituary, page 12

Soviet pledge on shot-down 747

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

TARO Nakayama, the Japanese foreign minister, relayed Japanese concerns over Soviet arms exports to the Gulf, transfer of European Soviet forces to Asia, and the shooting down of a South Korean airliner in 1983 to his Soviet counterpart, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, yesterday.

In the first round of talks to prepare for the visit of President Gorbachev in April, the two officials discussed international issues and domestic Soviet politics, a Japanese foreign ministry official said. For the first time in years, Soviet and Japanese officials discussed the shooting down of a South Korean airliner by a Soviet fighter in 1983.

Mr Nakayama cited recent reports in the Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* which quoted military sources as saying Moscow had flight data and cockpit voice recorders from the wreckage that could explain the incident. The Boeing 747 was shot down over the Soviet island of Sakhalin on September 1, 1983. All 269 people on board, including 27 Japanese, died.

The plane mysteriously veered off course and flew over Soviet territory before it was shot down. Moscow said

at the time the plane was on a spy mission. "You still have not returned remains of bodies and belongings, and I would like to say that this is causing much stress among the bereaved families," Mr Nakayama told Mr Bessmertnykh.

Mr Bessmertnykh was quoted as saying: "It was a great human tragedy and I have read the reports. I will promise to provide any additional data on the incident, although I have none at the moment." Relatives of Japanese victims said yesterday they would seek a brief meeting with President Gorbachev during his April 16-19 visit to ask for his explanation of the *Izvestia* reports.

On the Kremlin's decision to ban demonstrations in central Moscow for three weeks, Mr Nakayama said he hoped the Soviet government would respect freedom of speech and of assembly.

Mr Bessmertnykh was quoted as saying that it was "important that any democracy must be (kept) within the limits of law and that human rights must not be crushed. This is the key point of perestroika, how to seek a balance there".

Japan glimpses its gadget paradise

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S hordes of electronic gadget fanciers are benefiting from a playground for adults, opened in Tokyo by Matsushita Electric. The world's fourth largest consumer electronics company, with annual sales of some £25 billion, has set up a gadget paradise that makes the Ideal Home Exhibition look like a Victorian dolls' house display.

Matsushita, which exports under National and Panasonic, has concocted an ideal home where video screens are old hat. Monotone walls and grey urban views are enlivened by "aquatic curtains" - perpetually running paper-fine waterfalls of watery scenes of tropical fish or waves lapping the seashore beneath Mount Fuji.

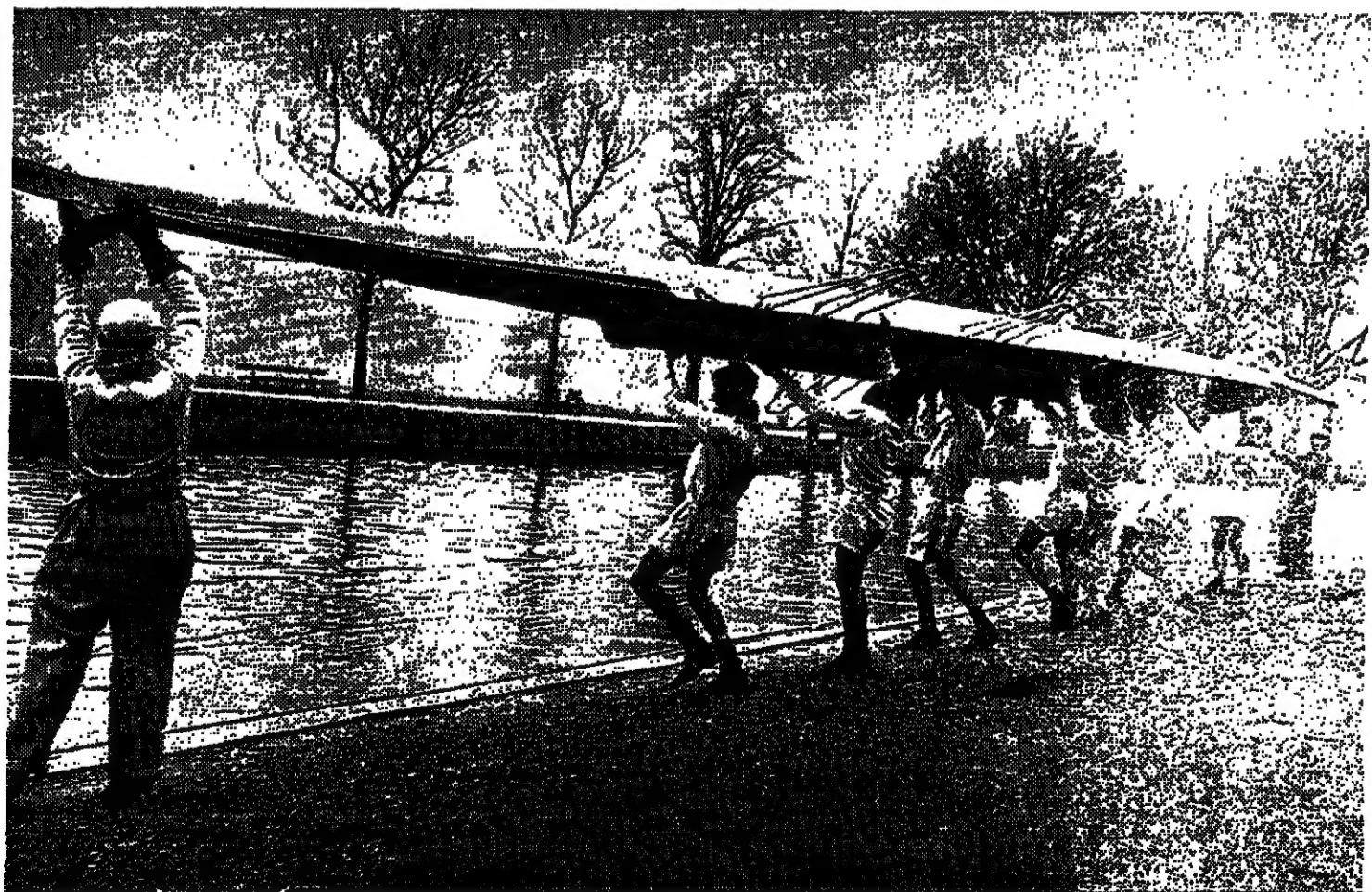
The bathroom features an

"intelligent toilet" that has built-in sensors to run a check on blood pressure, body temperature and heart rate.

Customers of the future will use high-pressure water jets to polish their teeth and groom themselves in front of Matsushita mirrors that incorporate a bank of tiny TV screens showing a profile from different angles.

The more narcissistic can zoom in on that crop of grey hairs by twiddling the buttons of the remote control console built into the dressing table.

In the kitchen, microwave ovens, so commonplace that they are considered almost medieval, have been replaced by futuristic gadgets that can create any dish once the raw ingredients are inserted and the relevant buttons pressed.



Please raise your glasses to Oxford and Cambridge.
The Boat Race, sponsored by Beefeater Gin. Putney to Mortlake. 1.20pm, Saturday 30th March.

UN chief voices misgivings over ceasefire accord

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, has expressed misgivings about the draft ceasefire resolution, now under discussion at the security council, requiring the destruction of all Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, and he intends to tell council members of his concern.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar believed that there would be "juridical difficulties" in implementing parts of the draft resolution, which calls for UN supervision of the destruction of Iraq's ballistic missiles and chemical arsenal within 90 days and the creation of a demilitarised zone along the Iraqi border.

"I am a little disquieted about the implementation of the resolution as it is, because everything that relates to peacekeeping is always based on the consent of parties concerned," he said. "We need very clear-cut consent from the Iraqi authorities and I know they already have some difficulties." The Baghdad government has criticised the American-drafted resolution, expected to be adopted by the full security council next week, as an attempt to rob Iraq of its sovereignty and mortgage its resources.

The 20-page draft resolution imposes the most severe conditions ever on a member

state of the United Nations, and calls on the secretary-general to implement many of its key provisions. According to the draft, the secretary-general has to help Iraq and Kuwait demarcate the disputed frontier in line with a 1963 border accord, and establish a demilitarised zone



Pérez de Cuéllar: fears "juridical difficulties"

manned by UN observers stretching six miles into Iraq and three miles into Kuwait.

Within 45 days, he also has to appoint a commission to draw up a plan for the destruction of all Iraq's ballistic missiles and chemical and biological weapons within a further 45-day period. Within 120 days, he has to spell out

how Iraq's future nuclear and chemical research will be monitored to prevent the development of weapons of mass destruction. He is also charged with drawing up the outline of a future arms embargo on Iraq.

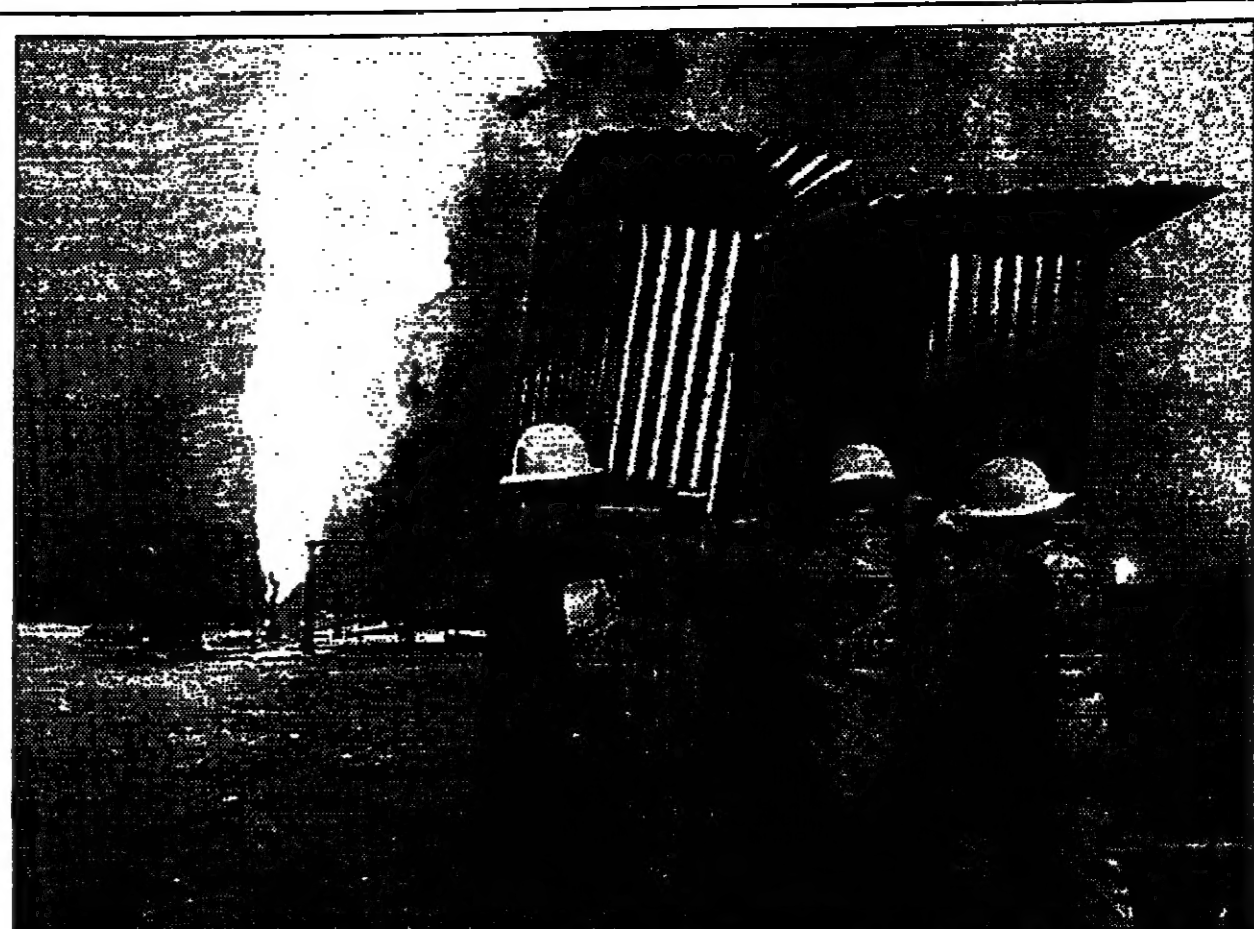
In addition, the UN head must work out a mechanism for Iraq to pay war compensation by diverting a percentage of its future oil revenues into a specially created fund. The bulk of UN sanctions will remain in force until that mechanism is agreed.

Senior UN officials have begun to discuss how to put the ceasefire resolution into effect once it is adopted. They fear that Iraq will make implementation difficult legally by refusing to accept all of the resolution's provisions.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said: "We have to be very careful about the juridical framework of the whole resolution, because of the interference in some of the sovereignty of a member country."

He added: "If this resolution is adopted, I would be only too happy to implement all the mandates, because I think it is for me to show that the UN is what it is meant to be, a peace mechanism much more than a war mechanism."

Schwarzkopf apology, page 1



Fire screen: workers of the American Boots and Coots company preparing to cap a burning oil well in Kuwait

Oil fires spark British imagination

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH plans for putting out blazing oil wells will be taken to Kuwait by Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, when he visits the country next month. The plans, intended to give British firms a role in the fire-fighting contracts, represent only a handful of the more than a thousand which have been deluging the British government and the Kuwaiti embassy in London since the end of the Gulf

war. Suggestions have included adapting the Iraqi supergun to fire shells into burning wells, and using heavy lifting helicopters to lower vast bells to snuff out the fires.

Oil engineers said yesterday that the sight of the burning fields had galvanised Britain's inventiveness. Nick Heaf, a director with the Epsom oil and gas division of W. S. Atkins, the consulting engineers, said: "There is a tremendous amount of untapped potential out there. We had a director

of a major insurance company who, after mulling over an idea on the train home from work, popped into our offices with his proposals. Other people have come in refusing to leave until their ideas have been seen."

"The difficulty for the Kuwaitis is that they cannot possibly consider all these ideas. However, if British companies can get in there, it might be possible for us to bring forward one or two of these more inventive proposals," he added.

Unholy disputes cast their pall on Holy City

From PAUL ADAMS
IN JERUSALEM

AN ELDERLY Jew is stabbed near the Wailing Wall and the great gates of the Old City are closed while police search for the culprit. Tension simmers in the Holy City, where Jews, Christians and Muslims are consumed by the fervours engendered by Passover, Easter and Ramadan.

At first glance, the gloomy interior of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre offers a welcome retreat from the hurly-burly of the modern world. But the scene of Christ's crucifixion and burial is also the place where competing Christian rites rub vestments.

With six denominations laying claim to parts of the basilica, this particular house of God has long had its unholy aspect: a battle over territory and rights that mirrors the wider political struggles. "Here you can lose a right if you don't protect it," says Father Jerome Murphy O'Connor, an Irish Dominican teacher and archaeologist. "What that means, of course, is that everybody is watching everybody like a hawk."

The Greek Orthodox Church controls much of the shrine, with some of the smaller sects relegated to dingy, ill-kept chapels or, in the case of the Ethiopians, a cluster of mud huts on the roof. The 19th-century Irish missionary, J. L. Porter, complained that he saw "nothing like devotion" in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. "Place was the object of worship, not God," he wrote in 1886. "The bitter animosities of rival sects came out on all sides, among the clergy as well as their flocks; and it was only the presence of the Turkish guard that prevented open war."

British and Jordanian guards also saw duty inside the church before being replaced by Israelis in 1967. To this day the keys are held by the Nuseibehs, one of Jerusalem's most prominent Muslim families.

Disputes now tend to be less ferocious than those of the 19th century, when clergymen would sometimes show visitors scars won during inter-denominational rows, but Father O'Connor says the police are still necessary. "They can get extremely violent," he says. "You see the candles. They are very big and heavy. If you hit someone with one of those, permanent damage is done."

In 1856 a fight broke out between Armenian and Greek monks inside Christ's tomb (a heavy exorcism once compared to "a gaudy newspaper kiosk in Salonika"), resulting in four serious injuries. The two groups still preside over the ceremony of the Holy Fire, which takes place on the Orthodox Holy Saturday, next week. Father O'Connor believes the miracle, in which fire emerges from a hole in the side of the tomb, has a perfectly logical explanation. "It is the friction between the Greeks and Armenians."

For several years, ceremonies in the rotunda have taken place under a gloomy shadow cast by scaffolding and disagreements over decorations to the restored dome. "The optimists say the debate could go on maybe a thousand years," says Father O'Connor.

The first Easter, page 10
Church services, page 12
Travel round-up, page 22

Kuwaiti opposition courted for cabinet

From JAMES DEITMER
IN KUWAIT CITY

SHEIKH Saad al-Sabah, the Kuwait crown prince, continued yesterday secret efforts to recruit members of the main opposition parties to join his government, which is expected to be announced today.

First attempts apparently failed after he made it clear he could not accept all the demands put forward by opposition leaders. He and other members of the ruling al-Sabah family were reported to be trying to divide them by making separate deals with the Muslim Brotherhood, which has perhaps the greatest following, and an Arab nationalist group.

But opposition parties have told the crown prince there must be fewer al-Sabahs in the new cabinet. Eight of the 22 outgoing ministers are al-Sabah members. They have also called for a broad-based national salvation government and a firm date for elections to a national assembly.

There is considerable pressure on the crown prince, who has held the post of prime minister since 1977, to appoint at least one prominent "insider", someone who stayed in Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation.

A noticeable division has developed between people who remained in the emirate during the occupation and those who sought sanctuary in Saudi Arabia or Western countries. Neighbourhood committees, which were formed during the occupation, are still much in evidence and have harshly criticised the outgoing government's handling of the emergency reconstruction programme.

Peace spells death for dogs of war

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN BEIRUT

IN Lebanon, if dog bites man, he calls the police and the solution is as indiscriminate as it is final. The only shots heard in Beirut these days are those fired by law enforcers killing dogs on the beaches and in the streets.

Outraged dog-owners say they feel impotent in the face of the shoot-to-kill policy that came in this week after reports of three pedestrians being attacked by stray dogs at night. Although witnesses said they had seen dozens of bullet-ridden dogs dumped by the sea, the exact number of killings in the past few days is not known. "There will be many more," predicted a patrolling policeman.

If the campaign proves the Middle Eastern aversion to dogs, it also exposes the irony that, for hundreds of animals, peace in Beirut means a violent death. They were certainly better off at war: the dogs once lived in the ruins of Beirut's green line, where

there were always leftovers from soldiers and militiamen.

The dogs of war lost their refuge when the green line was dismantled and rubbish collection lorries, scrap metal hunters and developers moved into the former battlefield after the withdrawal of the militias last December. Tales of hungry packs roaming the streets at night are exaggerated. One doctor dismissed reports of an imminent outbreak of rabies as absurd. The police were "having fun shooting dogs," protested a businessman, owner of a German shepherd, which he said was planning to keep indoors as a precaution.

Beirut bombing: a car packed with at least 200lb of explosives blew up, killing four people and injuring 27 in a Christian sector of Beirut hours after the Lebanese government had ordered all the militias to disband and surrender their weapons to the army by April 30.

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Progress of the pilgrimage

Ruth Gledhill on the growing number of people who make for sites of mass worship at Easter

They who would true value see are heading this weekend not for the Holy Land but to the small village of Walsingham, to St Albans or to Butlins. Inspired by John Bunyan's hymn, pilgrims are progressing as never before.

With the continuing secularisation of Christmas, the Easter celebration has become the one which marks the beginning of the season for pilgrimages, mass worship and Christian festivals.

Pilgrimages to the holy shrines at Walsingham in Norfolk begin this weekend with an influx of students who have spent Holy Week on the march. Ten thousand traditional Anglican worshippers will meet at St Albans, Hertfordshire, for an open-air service outside the abbey on Monday. Many more thousands of evangelicals and charismatics will be gathering at Butlins holiday camps around Britain for celebration and worship continuing for several weeks. Several hundred Anglicans will meet in Canterbury cathedral for the annual Easter youth pilgrimage on Monday.

Dr David Hope, the Bishop of Wakefield who is to become Bishop of London, is not surprised by the upsurge in enthusiasm for pilgrimages. As Master of the Guardians of Walsingham's Anglican shrine, he has experienced the spiritual renewal to be had from them. "Walsingham is actually a very holy place. People come from north, south, east and west to celebrate," he says. "You get all shapes and sizes, the good, the bad and the ugly, coming together. It is a place of renewal, refreshment and healing."

Sue Astley, the organiser of this weekend's multi-denominational Walsingham student pilgrimage, Student Cross, says: "The pilgrimage has a number of functions: it is a reminder to those who see us that there is more to Easter than eggs and bunnies; it is a means by which we can work towards inter-denominational understanding and church unity; and it is also an environment in which individuals can take time to think, pray and talk over problems."

Last night, the student pilgrims commemorated the crucifixion,



Faces of faith: Walsingham's shrines will attract some 18,000 pilgrims between now and autumn and probably, as in 1988, some protesters

and will meet tonight and on Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection in what Ms Astley describes as "exuberant style".

Their celebrations mark the beginning of the Walsingham season, which continues through the summer and into autumn, during which time about 18,000 pilgrims, not including tourists, are expected to visit the shrines.

John Selwyn Gummer MP, a member of the Church of England's general synod and a guardian of the shrine, says: "There is something special about a place which has been worshipped at for a long time. Increasingly people recognise that religion should involve the whole person. Holistic philosophy is something we have begun to rediscover. An important element is the togetherness."

"In England it is the one area where we come close to the orthodox concept of bringing heaven to earth: there is a very real sense in which we are making manifest the 'otherness' of religion. That is what we mean when we say we are imbibing the atmosphere, but that is a terribly English way of putting it."

Young people from Britain, Europe and Africa have spent the past week making their way, many

on foot, to St Albans for the annual youth pilgrimage and Easter celebration. At least 10,000 are expected to gather in a big top outside the cathedral for a service on Monday afternoon. The celebration, which began in 1944, outgrew the cathedral building several years ago. The Rev Michael Shaw, the diocesan youth worker, says: "The focus is still on young people, but it is very much an all-age event."

The worship is traditional An-

glican in style, and has in previous years included Bunyan's and other pilgrim hymns. "It is not at all charismatic or evangelical, it is what I would call straightforward Anglican. It is not like Spring Harvest," Mr Shaw says.

Spring Harvest, which has become a traditional Easter focus of evangelical worship in Britain, is the other main Christian event which straddles Easter. This year, a record 80,000 people are travelling to four sites around the UK,

10,000 up on last year. A non-denominational event, Spring Harvest aims to "challenge society's taboo subjects and give a Christian response", according to a spokesman.

The festival will include seminars on the reality of occultism (as a response to reports of ritual child abuse), homosexuality, healing and miracles, addiction, eating disorders, prophecy, the "suffering church" and the blasphemy laws.

Most people stay at Butlins camps at Minehead, Pwllheli, Skegness and Ayr for a week. Speakers include Graham Kendrick, the co-ordinator of the national March for Jesus planned for September, and John Smith, an Australian preacher and president of the exotic-sounding God Squad motor cycle club. Mr Smith has spent 20 years working with the homeless and addicts.

Peter Meadows, a member of the executive committee, says: "Christianity relates to the way we live our lives. We need to open our eyes to the needs around us and provide guidelines on how to respond effectively. We won't be coming up with solutions to the poll tax, but we will be looking at the impact of the poll tax, which has caused national unrest."

Easter events

Food fair: Sample or buy goat and sheep dairy products, organically grown vegetables, bread, preserves, wines, beers and ciders. *Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Sussex (0243 63348). Tomorrow and Mon, 11am-3pm; £3, children and students £1.50, family £5.*

Crystal quest: Fantasy adventure with digital sound, lighting and spectacular special effects. *Cheddar Show Caves, Cheddar Gorge, Somerset (0934 742343). Today onwards, daily, 10am-5.30pm; adult £4, child £2.50, under five free.*

Woodland project: Ancient art

of coppice crafts - making hurdles, rakes, besom brooms - plus a wide range of wooden items, including furniture, made by amateur and professional craftsmen and women. *Willow Gallery, Weobley, Herefordshire. Today, tomorrow and Mon, 10am-5pm; 50p.*

Farm crafts: Demonstrations and craft items for sale, cart rides, Morris dancers. The mansion, gardens and old hall also open. *Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow and Mon, 10.30am-4.30pm; £1.50, child £1, car park £1.70.*

JUDY FROSHAUG

Lambing without the poetic bits

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

I AM thinking of spring lambs, of Easter, and how our little farm can now claim to be a greetings card come to life: the lambs started to arrive a week ago. Although my calendar has had "Lambs from this date" inscribed on it for nearly five months, we were never convinced. We suspected the idle ram of having a permanent headache, but behind that indifferent stare burnt a virile passion, and his girls are now paying the price.

The problem with pregnant ewes which have not had lambs before is that they don't try very hard. They assume they are suffering from indigestion, or perhaps constipation, and wander around rather stiffly, putting a brave face on things. One ewe, about to give birth, sprinted to the feeding trough. The half-born lamb dangling from her will now presumably be so traumatised that it will live in fear of the dinner gong.

When lambs are born without any bother, it is a delight to watch. Their confused little bodies plop to the ground like a bundle of wet washing and take just one breath before looking for Mum. Then they stretch their limbs and stagger to their feet, wobbling like a rickety table. One foot goes bravely in front of another and slowly they inch closer to the radiant warmth of the ewe. So begins the most vital expedition of their lives: to the teat.

Considering the ewes have not spent months thumbing through Mothercare catalogues and getting into the maternal frame of mind, they get the idea remarkably quickly. The instant they have sniffed the lamb and confirmed it is theirs, they defend it with stamping feet if you get too close, and a headbutt will meet any other ewe which seems intent on theft.

Once mother and lamb have bonded, I move them into the family quarters - and all hell breaks loose. The other ewes start sniffing the little newcomer, confused as to whether the lamb might be theirs. If they decide it is not they butt it into the air until the poor little thing retreats, bleating. This forces its mother to step

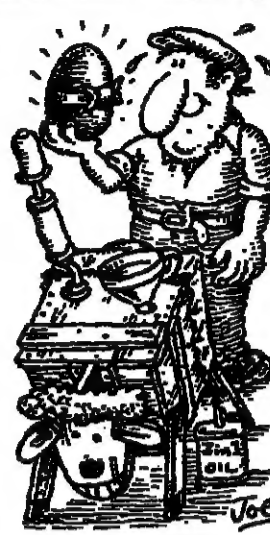
forward to the defence. The revolving mass of sheep, sniffing and butting, gyrates for about five minutes until families are reunited.

For all the lambs that are born without difficulty, it is the ones that don't make it that stick in the memory. We lost twins because the firstborn got its head wedged and its legs tangled. It happened with another ewe, too. Remembering the lessons at our local agricultural college, I greased my hand. For those lambing lessons we were given an appliance made of plywood and a rubber bag which represented the rear end of a sheep. To give it an authentic feel, the bag was encased in warm water at sheep temperature and filled with a jelly. A bicycle pump was attached to it and the whole thing could be inflated so that when you inserted your hand as if helping a lamb to be born, the tutor could give a quick stroke of the pump to simulate a contraction. It is not the sort of device to which innocents should be exposed. The real thing is far more successful if you are not.

I am just back from helping a ewe to give birth to her over-sized lamb. The lamb didn't make it. I blew down its mouth as a sort of kiss of life, tickled its nostrils with a straw. It didn't respond. It was a big, strapping sort of lamb that deserved to frisk in the meadows. Half an hour before I had been watching and enjoying lambs at play. Now I had a dead one to bury. But if you can't take the knocks you are a poor shepherd.

My 19th century *Cyclopaedia of Agriculture* says of shepherding: "Owing to the nature of his work affording him time and opportunity for quiet thoughts, there has always been associated with shepherding much that is poetic and beautiful and good."

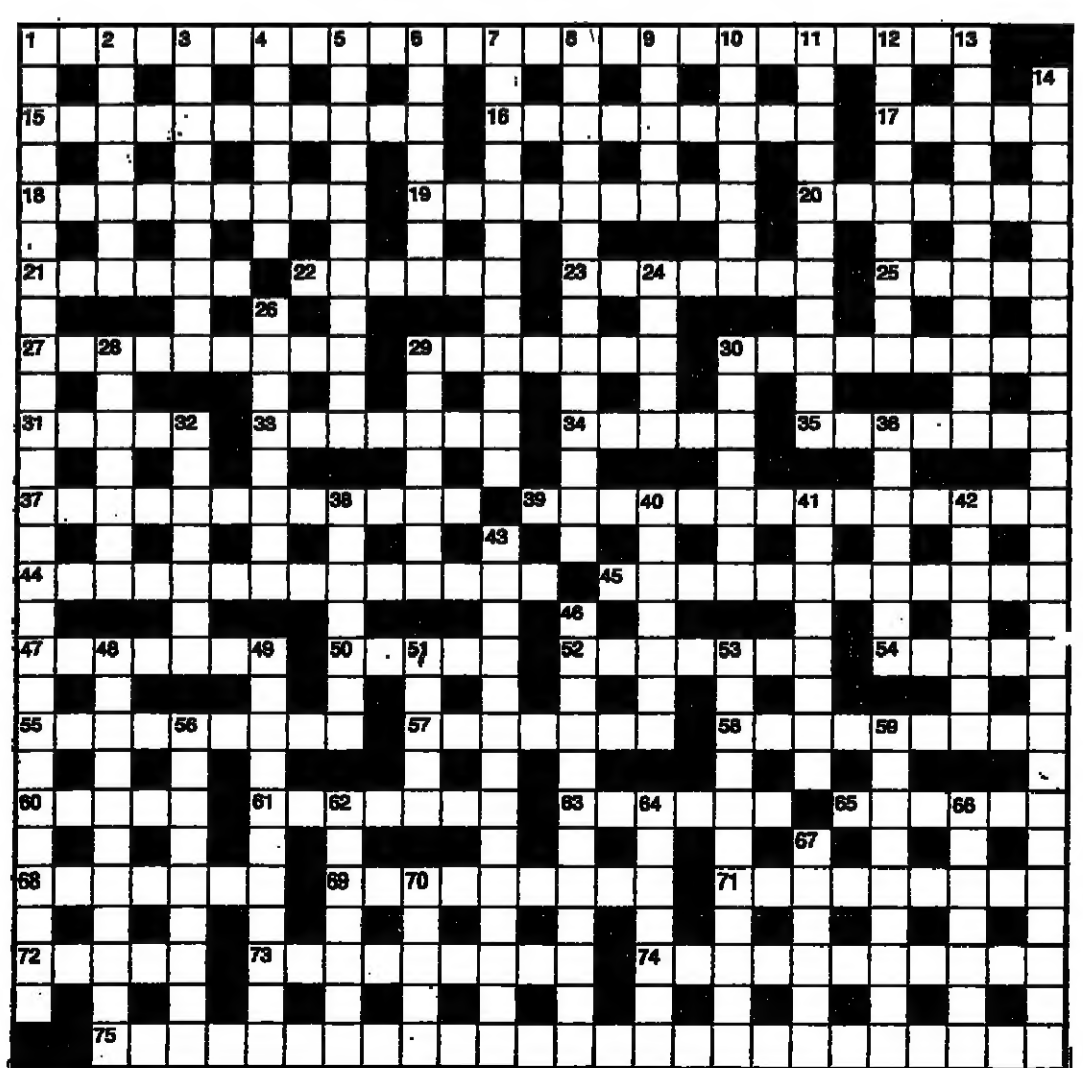
True, except that this novice shepherd finds the poetic bits are followed so swiftly by action that I am a spinning mass of emotions. Coupled with ewes and fresh-born lambs spinning around their pens, these are dizzy days on the farm.



The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

Test your word power in our Concise Jumbo Easter holiday competition

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday April 15, 1991. Entries should be sent to The Times Easter Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday April 20.



Name _____
Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 2445 (yesterday's concise crossword)

ACROSS: 1 Bubble 4 Shrimp 9 Warfare 10 Tiger 11 Rear 12 Etcetera 14 General Strike 16 De Gaulle 18 Fiat 20 Eland 21 Chasing 23 Speedy 24 Cooled
DOWN: 1 Bow 2 Bargain 3 Loaf 5 Hitherto 6 Ingle 7 Permanent 8 Mental block 11 Rigidness 13 Grounded 15 Initial 17 Grace 19 Sago 22 God

ACROSS

- 1 Advice about foreign capital for would-be mergers (4,2,4,2,2,3,6,2)
- 15 Organized medical side, as we did on D-day (11)
- 16 Part of ancient Iran Edward survived (9)
- 17 Old people held in police nick (5)
- 18 Quality of dab - fresh one's kept in river (9)
- 19 Remove queen and surrender position after bishop's taken (9)
- 20 Exceeded Cambridge's opponents' score, almost (7)
- 21 Wear oarsmen out in this university city? (6)
- 22 Parasite found in marine animal (6)
- 23 How to make a score of two and a half (7)
- 25 Slowly scored fifty runs in a game (5)
- 27 One no longer in county set, having upset his Kerry circle (9)
- 29 American cotton all right for an Indian (7)
- 30 Transport cost new to a Mediterranean port (9)
- 31 Complaint from 74 about crude oil (5)
- 33 American general has to prohibit a Japanese art (7)
- 34 Not quite a bull's eye for private (5)
- 35 Careful to conceal religious books in chapel (7)
- 37 Lack of forward planning I'm showing with state's capital (12)
- 39 Unruly behaviour producing another story, perhaps (7,3,4)
- 44 Full-scale practice to prepare for course - again tries a new driver (5,9)
- 45 Tyrant overthrown by Christian (7,5)
- 47 Northern region or southern part of Europe (7)
- 50 A setback for storyteller (5)
- 52 Visual potential of the Capitol (7)
- 54 At home with chess openings, secures a mate (5)
- 55 Not bound to include cut fruit in one (9)
- 57 Pike decapitated craftsman (7)
- 58 Metal bat with a lack of stiffness, we hear (9)
- 60 Soundly beats innocent children (5)
- 61 Income tax centre, oddly, gets lots of praise (7)
- 63 Music heard on ship in second-class cabin (6)
- 65 He provided light, turning end of match (6)
- 68 Dingy headquarters of film unit, mostly Liverpudlian (7)
- 69 Wild animal has to walk first, then run (5,4)
- 71 Ricochet? Take a quick look at the wings (6,3)
- 72 An animal or two born inside (5)
- 73 Comfortable stern accommodation - for midshipman? (4,5)
- 74 Six-footer with bat could be found here (7,4)
- 75 Novel conditions favoured Channel crossing (4,5,3,4,3,6)

DOWN

- 1 Young Sheffield footballer's not at all happy in the nursery, it's said (10,5,2,4,2,3)
- 2 'e's bound? No longer (7)
- 3 French Academy for old soldiers? (9)
- 4 Broadcast in sound put out again (6)
- 5 To overcome a knight, say, is a major achievement (11)
- 6 Ineffective person's gone crazy, creating resentment (7)
- 7 I'll beat a chap terribly, as ordered - literally (12)
- 8 Concerned with words making zero sense in the end (14)
- 9 Girl some Americans provided with capital (5)
- 10 Bound to pass? Not in spring (7)
- 11 Radio One cut me off - concerned with level of sound (11)
- 12 Spark that is alight until midday (9)
- 13 Excessively serious art receiving too much money? (11)
- 14 Brewer's work, including that of 50 and 53, say (10,2,6,3,5)
- 24 Sign you need to understand up North (5)
- 26 Small pay-outs I have may be creating discord (8)
- 28 Restoration comedy could be disaster in theatre (7)
- 29 Pure English well represented by this poet (Spenser) (7)
- 30 Cavalry officer holding old mark of rank (7)
- 32 One who singles out no beggar (7)
- 36 Retort from doctor, one interrupting smart chap (7)
- 38 Green alder and hollow elm destroyed (7)
- 40 Tidy Georgie transport up (7)
- 41 Runway for this aircraft (8)
- 42 Opening provided in precious metal and stones (7)
- 43 New MP had seat with 9 in North London area (9,5)
- 46 Bird has to put up with a couple of scraps (5-7)
- 48 Male scholar's pet dog (4,7)
- 49 No subtlety in pronouncement of 'arsh quality (11)
- 51 Be a climber in social group (5)
- 53 Failed to sort out a geometric proof's conclusion (4,2,5)
- 56 Italian leader Greek character's overthrown in one defeat (9)
- 59 Bad actor I displaced as King Lear, for example (9)
- 62 Recovers part of income stolen (5,2)
- 64 The French corporal, say, in a northern town (7)
- 66 Enlarged circle with lines in all directions (7)
- 67 Promenader's a proud member of musical sextet (6)
- 70 Way in which expert is engaged in contest (5)

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday

ACROSS

- 1 Ombudsman (13,12)
- 15 Flapping wings craft (11)
- 16 Blood plasma treatment (9)
- 17 Medieval harlot (5)
- 18 If not (9)
- 19 October 31 (9)
- 20 Tunesful (7)
- 21 Tingle (6)
- 22 Piffers (6)
- 23 Capreolus capreolus (3,4)
- 25 Plain clothes (5)
- 27 Salt (3,6)
- 29 Brimstone (7)
- 30 Harsh monetary demands (9)
- 31 Alas (5)
- 33 Ultimate recipient (3,4)
- 34 Dormant (5)
- 35 Adept (7)
- 37 Resounding sounds (7,5)
- 39 Letdown (14)
- 44 Hollow triumph (7,7)
- 45 Sale bargain (7,5)
- 47 Foreign outpost (7)
- 50 Angevin French duchy (5)
- 52 Landing field (7)
- 54 Pick-me-up (5)
- 55 Unusual items (9)
- 57 Thrill (7)
- 58 Pressure-boulded piece (9)
- 60 Finalise (3,2)
- 61 Wealthy inheritor (7)
- 63 Start dentition (6)
- 65 Billowing clouds (6)
- 68 Bar buttons (7)
- 69 Benefactress (9)
- 71 Rockslide (9)
- 72 Striped-leg ruminant (5)
- 73 Checker (9)
- 74 Wipe out (11)
- 75 Royal Albert Hall occasion (5,4,9,7)

DOWN

- 1 Seats by party votes (12,14)
- 2 Big farmer (7)
- 3 Among other things (5,4)
- 4 Short-sighted (6)
- 5 Domain of dead (11)
- 6 Dirigible (7)
- 7 Annual pay (6,6)
- 8 Degenerative joint disease (14)
- 9 Curved billiards shot (5)
- 10 Unusual (7)
- 11 Commemorative writings (2,9)
- 12 Observe restriction (4,5)
- 13 18-hole session (5,2,4)
- 14 Lock up alone (5,2,8,11)
- 24 Eagle's nest (5)
- 26 Hypersensitive (8)
- 28 Washing up board (7)
- 29 Questionable (7)
- 30 Non-uterine (pregnancy) (7)
- 32 Peacock-crowned Hindu deity (7)
- 36 Service first music (7)
- 38 WW 2 Japanese battle island (7)
- 40 Communist party organisation (7)
- 41 Nervous, excited (2,1,5)
- 42 Turkish "Mr" (7)
- 43 Problem solver (7,7)
- 46 Vigorously publicises (5,3,4)
- 48 Set dance steps (11)
- 49 Dash out (4,7)
- 51 Adjudicator (5)
- 53 Kindly, warm (4,7)
- 56 Eviction (9)
- 59 Waiting (9)
- 62 Thickly-applied paint (7)
- 64 Oriental (7)
- 66 Take from packing case (7)
- 67 Cloth (6)
- 70 Inclination (5)

Andreotti quits and points Italy's way to radical changes

From PAUL BOMPARDI IN ROME

GIULIO Andreotti resigned as Italy's prime minister yesterday, ending the country's 49th postwar government but possibly opening a route to the most radical changes in the Italian political system since the second world war.

After informing the cabinet and the senate of his intentions, Signor Andreotti, a Christian Democrat, formally handed in his resignation to President Cossiga.

During a speech to the Senate interrupted by catcalls, Signor Andreotti said: "I hope my resignation will serve to reinforce the nation's politics. Honourable senators, I think it is our duty not to ignore a climate of exhaustion that has been accumulating for months."

"In resigning... I am confident that all this... (will) only give more strength to national policy, increasing and resurrecting in citizens their faith in the state and in its representative institutions."

Signor Andreotti was forced to step down as head of a coalition of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats by demands from the Socialist party led by Bettino Craxi, and from President

Cossiga, for a government that would make fundamental reforms in the electoral system and other political institutions. If these reforms are carried out, Italy would effectively enter its "second republic" with a completely overhauled constitution.

Signor Andreotti, one of Italy's most experienced and astute leaders, is expected to be asked by Signor Cossiga to try and form a new government after Easter. But the conditions of radical institutional reform set by Signor Craxi and Signor Cossiga are such that it will be very hard to form a coalition with a clear reform programme, and Italians could well be called to early elections.

Although all the coalition government parties, including the Socialists, have said they are not in favour of elections before the end of the legislature in June 1992, it is believed that the Socialists would benefit from an early vote. Although they hold only 14 per cent of parliament, administrative elections indicate that they would stand to gain several percentage points. On Thursday, Signor Craxi said that in the interest of reforms "early elections would not be a drama".

The need for drastic change in a complex, unwieldy and "over-engineered" political system has been apparent for some time to all in the political spectrum. But the exact proportional system of representation has meant that the very weakness of a series of coalition governments with narrow majorities has prevented any serious change.

The Socialists are calling for a presidential republic, possibly on French lines, in which the president has greater executive powers and is elected directly by the voters. Other suggestions include a cut-off point, possibly of 5 per cent, below which parties are not admitted to parliament. Three of the five coalition parties, Republicans, Liberals and Social Democrats, have less than 5 per cent of the vote and would have to merge to have a parliamentary voice.

Signor Andreotti, known as "the old fox" of Roman politics, will have the unenviable task of presenting a programme that the traditional five coalition parties will agree to, but that will also earn the stamp of approval of Signor Craxi and Signor Cossiga. If he fails, in spite of 40 years' experience of the intricacies of the Italian political scenario and after having led six of the nation's 49 governments, Signor Cossiga will be forced to entrust the task to someone else, possibly Signor Craxi.

If a stalemate should develop, however, the only solution will be early elections, a costly and time-consuming process that Signor Craxi and Signor Cossiga seem to feel might be worthwhile in the interest of a decisive reformist leadership afterwards.

Italian voters, hardened by the frequency of political crises, general elections, administrative elections and a host of referendums on everything from bird-shooting to abortion, seem to view the current crisis with boredom and irritation, as yet another incomprehensible squabble "in the palace". On the basis of past experience there is no reason to believe that early elections would significantly change the balance of power.

● **MILAN: Gladio**, the secret army set up in Italy in the 1960s to prepare for a possible communist invasion or coup was equipped with "unconventional weapons" stored at an American base, according to documents seized from Italy's secret service by an investigating magistrate (Andrew McEwen writes).

The weapons were not identified, but the term usually means nuclear, chemical or biological warheads.

Leading article, page 13



Andreotti: difficult task of forming new coalition

Rally in Tirana challenges the ghost of Hoxha

By JOHN HOLLAND IN TIRANA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 20,000 Albanians thronged the Tirana University campus yesterday in an outpouring of support for the opposition Democratic Party against the communists in Albania's first free elections tomorrow, which follow more than 45 years of orthodox Stalinism.

The communist authorities had refused to allow an anti-government election rally to be held in Tirana's main square yesterday, where last month angry demonstrators pulled down a statue of the late dictator, Enver Hoxha.

Opposition organisers, who have accused President Ali's ruling Party of Labour conducting a dirty tricks campaign, demonstrated instead at the university, a symbolic venue for the Democratic Party, which was founded there last December after unprecedented student protests.

The camp of Ramiz Alia has revealed its nervousness over the prospect of losing power, and the president, aged 66, admitted as much during a news conference yesterday. "Whether I stay is not up to me, I am not a dictator," the leader declared, insisting that despite his party's absolute control over the military and secret police, as well as the moribund bureaucracy, he would accept "the verdict of the people".

His one press conference of the campaign was described by a long-time observer as "smooth and cagey", and few here believe that a transition to a non-communist system will flow as smoothly as Mr Alia's words, judging by the applause he received at the end of the conference from communist functionaries and

most Albanian journalists. Communist loyalists have been accused of intimidating opposition candidates campaigning in communist strongholds in the countryside, while several Western monitors have claimed that electoral lists for the country's 1.9 million voters have been altered to favour the communists.

None the less, it does appear that Europe's last bastion of Stalinism is about to be overhauled irrevocably.

The Democratic Party claims, with some justification, to have tipped the balance in its favour in what is shaping up to be a tight race in one of Europe's oddest and shortest election campaigns.

At stake are 250 parliamentary seats, requiring the candidates to win an outright majority. Many probably will fail and a run-off will be necessary within several weeks.

The leader of the Democratic Party, Gramoz Pashko, promised to end "the system of privilege in Albania which has led to tyranny", and hinted that the country's feared secret police, the Sigurimi, has been muzzled, if not eliminated.

Mr Pashko promised that there would be no coalition with the communists if the Democratic Party wins tomorrow but fails to gain an absolute majority to control parliament. "That party," he said, referring to the communists, "is unchangeable, unreformable, and for us would be totally unacceptable in a coalition." He did not rule out a coalition with any of the other half-dozen opposition parties contesting seats.

THE Warsaw Pact, the communist military alliance long seen as the main threat to freedom in the West and an instrument of Soviet hegemony in a subjugated Eastern Europe, will be officially disbanded tomorrow.

Military leaders of the six remaining members — the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania — met for the last time in Moscow on Monday at the office of General Vladimir Lobov, the Soviet chief of staff. All that remains is the political structure, which will continue temporarily — in deference to Soviet hardliners — until the foreign ministers meet in July in Prague to discuss the pact's demise.

Set up by Moscow in 1955 to counter the founding of Nato, the pact was an instrument of Soviet military control over its satellites and a means to enhance the credibility of Soviet confrontation with the West. There was no attempt to set up an integrated command structure, no independent headquarters, no political council, or parliamentary assembly.

The stationing of Soviet troops was regulated by bilateral treaty; and the pact, whose forces only saw action against their own members, forfeited any chance of winning popular approval when it was used to help and justify



Time of absolution: the Pope, carrying on with a Good Friday tradition he started 12 years ago, hearing the confession in St Peter's of one of 12 pilgrims, chosen from the thousands who flock to Rome from all over the world in holy week

Warsaw Pact break-up leaves security vacuum

By MICHAEL BENVENISTE, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Warsaw Pact, the communist military alliance long seen as the main threat to freedom in the West and an instrument of Soviet hegemony in a subjugated Eastern Europe, will be officially disbanded tomorrow.

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most they might be offered is some kind of associate relationship, stopping short of a military guarantee.

President Havel of Czechoslovakia remarked bitterly during a visit to Nato headquarters that an alliance of countries united by the ideals of freedom "should not be forever closed to neighbouring countries that are pursuing the same goal". Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia are therefore looking at a strengthening of their own relations. Hungary and Czechoslovakia are also interested in Italy's proposals for a "pentagonal" that includes Austria and Yugoslavia.

But the satisfaction in Eastern Europe at their departure has been tempered by anxiety over the security vacuum they leave behind. In the bloc-to-bloc European arms control negotiations, East European countries had a collective say. They now have no institutional relations with Nato, and fear their interests will be ignored when a new Conventional Forces in Europe treaty is negotiated. "All 22 countries will have to be involved; but it is now not clear how," one diplomat said.

Several countries are looking towards Nato to guarantee their security, but Nato has made it clear it will not admit them because it sees this as too provocative to Moscow. The

Austrian nurses get life for killing patients

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN VIENNA

TWO nurses' aides were convicted yesterday of killing 20 patients with lethal drug overdoses or by forcing water into their lungs after a trial exposing glaring faults in Vienna's hospital system.

The three-judge panel sentenced Waltraud Wagner, aged 32, Irene Leidolf, aged 27, to life imprisonment for murder. The judges sentenced Stefanie Mayer, aged 51, to a 20-year term for attempted murder and manslaughter and Maria Gruber, aged 25, to 15 years for attempted murder.

The jurors found Wagner guilty of 15 murders, 17 attempted murders and two cases of aggravated assault. Leidolf was convicted of five murders, two attempted murders, Mayer of seven attempted murders and one case of manslaughter, and Gruber of two attempted murders.

Lawyers for Wagner and Leidolf announced they would appeal to have the trial declared invalid on procedural grounds and because of unverifiable evidence. Leidolf's counsel, Gerhard Winterstein, said he planned a separate appeal. The lawyers for Mayer and Gruber reserved the right to appeal.

The four, dubbed "the angels of death" in Austria's tabloid press, initially admitted to involvement in more than 40 deaths between 1983 and 1989 before retracting most of their confessions.

Presiding judge Peter Straub condemned the "ingenious and malicious methods" used by the defendants. The patients, all old and chronically ailing, were given intravenous overdoses of drugs or were killed by forcing their tongues aside and pouring water down their windpipes.

Wagner, who was in a stupor for most of the four-week trial, slumped over as sentence was pronounced. Mayer collapsed at the end of the trial and was taken out of the courthouse on a stretcher.

After failing to reach agreement on Thursday on the 247 points summarising the testimony and charges, the jury of six women and two men were locked overnight into Vienna's ornate neo-classical county court. Officials said they reached a decision at 3 am. The verdicts and sentences were pronounced 12 hours later.

The case had gripped Austria, not only because it revealed mass murder unprecedented in the country's modern history but because it pointed to major shortcomings in hospital care in a country that prides itself on its socialised medical system.

Germany urged to name arms dealers

HEINRICH Weiss, president of the German Industrial Federation, has called on the government to publish a full list of German companies under investigation for illegal arms dealings with Iraq (Ian Murray writes from Bonn).

Herr Weiss made the plea in an interview published yesterday in *Der Spiegel*, after the Darmstadt state prosecutor confirmed that 14 Germans had so far been charged with selling Iraq equipment for the manufacture of chemical weapons and bombs.

One of her Herr Weiss's company's is under investigation for allegedly supplying Iraq with parts for a supercannon. He has denied this and said it was time to end the global slandering of German industry.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles has produced a list of 135 German firms it claims have been connected with the production of poison gas in Iraq. UN misgivings, page 8

Taxing Vietnam

Hanoi — Some Vietnamese and foreign residents will have to pay between 10 and 50 per cent of their salaries in taxes under an amended income tax law. The law is meant to boost state revenue as the government shifts from a centrally planned to a market-oriented economy. (Reuters)

Fueling costs

Prague — The Czechoslovak government is to stop subsidising energy, with the result that fuel and energy prices will more than double. From May 1, brown coal will cost 234 per cent more, coke 246 per cent more, while natural gas will rise by 134 per cent, according to the newspaper *Mlada Fronta Dnes*. (AP)

Polish visas

Bonn — Poles will be able to visit Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux countries for three months without a visa, from April 8, in the wake of an agreement signed yesterday by the countries concerned. The concession was promised last November by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor.

Bricks dropped

Peking — A Sino-Australian company that claimed to be selling bricks from China's Great Wall had its licence revoked after the bricks were found to be fakes, the *China Daily* said. The Jing Ao Great Wall Souvenir Co Ltd sold several hundred bricks before and during last year's Asian Games. (AFP)

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Exit from Ukraine's topsy-turvy world

THE KGB captain with gold teeth was told to take me to the Soviet-Polish border and make sure that I did not slip away into the fertile fields and dense copses of the Ukrainian countryside. It was, for him, an annoying but slightly unusual job at the end of his working day, a good story perhaps for the Lvov police station: an English reporter with an inadequate visa promise from Moscow. "You should know this, mister — Moscow is far, far away."

Yet Moscow touches everything. There are, of course, Ukrainian flags and Madonna shrines along the way. Cardinal Myroslav Lubachivsky returns today to Lvov, and for the first time since 1946, when the Uniate Catholic Church was forcibly absorbed into the Orthodox, the Ukrainians will have a primate.

Is that why the Lvov police are on high alert? Only partly, it seems. Huge price rises are due on Tuesday and the combination of worker unrest and the national sentiment that will be stirred by the homecoming of the cardinal this Easter is a formula for trouble in western Ukraine.

My KGB guardian in his red Lada car serves a Soviet agency but thinks

The KGB's long arm reaches out from Moscow to frustrate a bid by Roger Boyes to learn to love Lvov, once Polish but now light years away in prosperity

as a Ukrainian. The cardinal is a good thing; price rises are "Moscow", an alien economic policy that makes no sense. The shops in western Ukraine were already thinly stocked. Now they are entirely empty, stripped by the locals stocking up on provisions while they are still relatively cheap, and by cross-border merchants who buy in the Soviet Union and sell in Poland.

On the Ukrainian side of the border, big modern granaries and ambitious churches are the only signs that the country is one of the wealthiest outposts of the Soviet Union. There are few cars and shops and the villages are in poor condition. On the Polish side the difference between the systems is immediately clear. Satellite television dishes protrude from every fourth or fifth home and the farmers skim through the puddles in brightly coloured Japanese cars. In the small Polish border town of Przemyśl, where many homes still have outside lavatories, there is none the less

a certain glitz. Western-style boutiques, imaginative window displays full of Easter rabbits, a money-changing centre with fairy lights.

But it is the physical border that best indicates the difference. Four miles before the Soviet frontier the queue of cars begins; it is in fact a four-day queue, long enough, says the KGB man, for people to fall in love. Most of the motorists have brought enough food to last while they wait for customs clearance, but there is little water and those in the queue — mainly Ukrainians wanting to make profits in Poland — have already started to sharpen their business skills by selling water from neighbouring farms in grimy bottles. There are even some prostitutes, women from Lvov who knock at the doors of the bored truck drivers.

In his rush to be rid of me, the KGB captain bumped into a Romanian who on the bonnet of his Dacia saloon had a display of raw meat to be bought by the queuing motorists and cooked in the fields. He hands

me over to the Soviet border police post which is under KGB supervision. These are probably the richest policemen in the Ukraine, some of them picking up 50 roubles (£50) a day in bribes.

A lift is arranged. A Pole, an unemployed barber, is driving back to Przemyśl after a shopping trip in the Ukraine. Soviet price rises on Tuesday, he predicts, will bring public disorder and hyper-inflation. The dollar black market is exploding in the Ukraine; hence the border queues. My barber is trading too, in plastic hula hoops, toys and tennis bought wholesale from a Ukrainian dealer. "The big market is in Soviet diamonds — you can pick up bags of them in Kiev — but you have to know your stuff. It's a game for experts with lots of hoops," he said before handing me over to a friend, a taxi driver who buys subsidised Soviet petrol from the Ukrainians to sell to Polish cabbies. For a price he takes me to Cracow and tries to sell me a Russian picture book about Lvov. "I love Lvov," he says. "It should have stayed Polish. Did you like the place?" I consider the question, reflecting on a day of KGB custody. "I hardly saw it," I said.

One of the great sights of the 1960 Rome Olympics — the last in which South Africa participated before the international boycott of its sportsmen and women — was the Afrikaner Gerd Pögeier streaming irresistibly to victory in the 400-metre hurdles. Expectations are rising that South Africa could be back at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, if it can meet the anti-apartheid conditions laid down by the International Olympic Committee this week. But the way back lies through a political jungle.

During its 30 years of sporting isolation a plethora of anti-apartheid sports organisations grew up both within and outside South Africa, all with the aim of enforcing and policing the boycott. While there was no doubting the sincerity and justice of their cause, such organisations afforded some individuals considerable career opportunities: the most successful became famous, attracting funding from charities and the United Nations, and acting as informal diplomats. Paradoxically they depended on the continuation of apartheid and even on the occasional boycott-breakers to allow

One last hurdle for the Springboks

R.W. Johnson believes the ANC should throw its weight behind a return to international sport

them to demonstrate their power. Such people now see these careers as an end and most want to land jobs as top administrators-cum-diplomats in the newly unified South African sporting organisations.

This is a price which the white South African sports establishment seems prepared to pay — thus Sam Ramsamy, the former head of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee, has now become the new president of the Interim National Olympic Committee of South Africa. But there is a fundamental disparity: the old white sports organisations have great experience and represent most of the sporting muscle, while the anti-apartheid sports politicians represent few actual sportsmen and have seldom organised a major event. (The sole exception is soccer, an over-

whelmingly black sport that is now poised to take over the top position which rugby has always enjoyed.)

Nonetheless, the political clout of the main sports organisation aligned to the African National Congress, the National Olympic Sports Congress (NOSC), is such that nothing can be achieved without its consent. But a problem immediately arises: the NOSC line is that all organisations must join a moratorium on international sporting links while the unification of the various sports bodies is achieved. What this means is that the boycott must be enforced more rigorously than ever. Organisations which have maintained even the most tenuous international links are loath to do this.

And NOSC is not alone — there is an alphabet soup of anti-apartheid sports bodies which



Mandela: a need to knock heads together and assert his authority

compete in taking a hard line, playing to the gallery of township militants and to the ANC's own wish to keep the sport boycott as a bargaining card. So first the boycott was of apartheid in sport, when that was abolished, it was of

apartheid in general. Now it is argued that the boycott must stay even after apartheid goes, that it can be lifted only when universal suffrage is won, or even until some millenarian future when "full social and economic justice" is achieved.

Behind the ever widening boycott terms lies the ANC's desire to postpone South Africa's re-entry to international sport to allow time for greater black participation than would be possible by 1992. This means waiting for re-entry until the Olympics and World Cup can be staged in South Africa and for these to be turned into the sporting equivalent of the Wembley Mandela concerts, with Nelson and Winnie taking the salute of a vast audience amid a sea of ANC flags and symbols.

Intruding harshly upon this dream is the fact that several

Western states, even previous hardliners such as Australia, have begun to press for an end to the boycott. Moreover the International Olympic Committee has made it clear that it will take its lead from its existing African member states, more and more of which would like an end to the boycott. None of them, after all, is in a position to argue that Olympic membership should be conditional on universal suffrage or social and economic justice. But they are also looking ahead to a post-apartheid future in which they will eagerly avail themselves of South African capital, trade and expertise. They do not wish to thwart the ANC's will, but they are exerting pressure for a change of policy.

Nelson Mandela and the rest of the ANC leadership now need to knock a few militant heads together and regain some of the

initiative they have surrendered through indecision. They should demand and get as a *quid pro quo* a government pledge for the large-scale provision of better sporting facilities in the townships, perhaps assisted by private funds raised by the likes of golfer Gary Player, cricketer Clive Rice or Frew Macmillan, the tennis player.

Then there will be no need to fear that South African sport will continue to have a white face: the reservoir of sporting passion and talent in the townships is immense. True, the lack of international competition has dulled the edge of many of the country's sports — only in rugby might the Springboks emerge as immediate world champions. But that is no reason to delay.

The ANC's internal tensions are not a good enough reason to keep South Africa out of the Barcelona Olympics. In a deeply divided country the unifying symbolism of all being able to cheer the same national representatives, including a host of black soccer players, boxers and distance runners, is just what South Africa needs.

The author is a fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford.

Clifford Longley

Suffering by example

If Christmas is the people's festival, Easter is the church's festival. But Good Friday is a stumbling block. Why should anybody want to mark Christ's death, except those who see it with the eyes of faith as the "necessary evil" before the Resurrection? Those without that vision are stuck with a dead man on a cross, no more meaningful or attractive than any violent death.

But Good Friday is the answer, if a strange one, to the sharpest charge against all religion, and Christianity in particular. The charge is that religion tries to take the pain out of suffering, to pretend it is not real. Behind this charge lies the focus of the contemporary crisis of faith, the denial that the Christian idea of God can be credible.

The existence of God is less of a hurdle to belief than the existence of suffering. Suffering is bad. A loving God would want to prevent it. An almighty God could prevent it. So God is either not loving or not almighty. If Christians say he is both, the Christian God is logically impossible and does not exist.

The point is not usually perceived — so philosophically, and cannot be answered philosophically. To talk cleverly of free will is to treat the issue as a chess game. The objection is felt as indignation or anger, as if to believe in such a God is to mock the experience of suffering, to withhold compassion, even to condone the suffering. God is fine at Christmas, but where is God at Lockerbie, Hillsborough, Zeebrugge? How dare anybody believe in such a thing at such a time?

Christianity has only one honest reply: the desolation of Good Friday. The instrument of torture and execution has become Christianity's central symbol, sometimes carrying the figure of the victim at the moment of death. Christianity may have a problem with suffering, but that cannot be mere ignorance of it.

Jesus's most revered words are those he uttered in His death agony. He said nothing about suffering not being real, that it was all worthwhile for the sake of the Resurrection, or about how free will solved the intellectual problem. He said: "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Evasion this was not.

The evangelist recording the words did not censor them, nor did the church flinch from them when they were admitted to the canon of scripture. Such tragic pathos fits no comfortable scheme of explanation. Even to the unbeliever they ring true as the words of a dying man. Yet every Good Friday the church returns to such words, insisting they be fully searched for their last drop of meaning.

Rather than an avoidance of suffering, this is the opposite: making it so intense it becomes unbearable. This route is straight through the heart of suffering rather than round it. Anybody in pain, despair, humiliation or degradation may look on a crucifix and address the figure hanging there, rhetorically or in prayer and say: "At least, you knew what it was like." Promises that it would soon be over or that Resurrection would certainly follow brought no comfort to Jesus — why should they to anybody else? Indeed, why pray to Jesus in time of suffering, knowing that even His prayers went unanswered?

Publicly and defiantly, Good Friday flouts all this in the face of a disbelieving world, knowing and expecting it to turn its back. Good Friday is bound to be misunderstood by many, and will be repugnant to some of those who do understand. But being misunderstood and being repugnant are parts of what Good Friday is about. It is, and is meant to be, the unacceptable face of Christianity.

The Resurrection is for believers, a private aftermath — gardens at dawn, empty tombs and upper rooms, a stranger on the road, secret ghostly appearances. There would be no triumphant parades, no public vindication; only a missing body.

Nobody approaches Easter except through Good Friday, the first one, or the annual one, or their own personal agony. The only vantage point from which to look back at Good Friday in order to learn from within it, is Easter; and those who have not passed through their own Easter cannot regard the events of Good Friday as anything but bad, as meaningless pain and horror. That is all they are meant to see; all there is. Only having seen it that way, will they ever see it differently.

When fact gave way to faith

Peter Jones examines the events that led to a far-off execution, but leaves the aftermath to the theologian



Did Pilate intend just a beating until the high priest urged the death penalty?

First-century Judea was an impossible place to control — parallels with modern Lebanon suggest themselves. Passionately proud of their nation's ideology and calling, the Jewish people were torn apart by myriad dissident factions. They were challenged by Greek culture on one side and Roman imperialism on the other. It was ideal ground for a messiah — *messiah* — who would throw off the foreign yoke and usher in God's kingdom.

Many Jews believed that the world was entering its Last Days. Huge crowds accompanied apocalyptic activists such as Theudas, who planned to part the Jordan, and an unnamed Egyptian Jew who promised the collapse of the walls of Jerusalem. For all his imperialism — the right to command in any way he saw fit — Pontius Pilate was simply another Roman who could not cope. He is worth an ounce of sympathy, even though his religious insensitivity caused four major disruptions in his ten years as governor, before he was recalled for corruption and disappeared from history.

Such were the times when, in about 30 AD, Jesus of Nazareth, a charismatic, pacifist teacher-healer, was cheered into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover and the arrival of the Kingdom of God. Our sole source for these events is the gospels. That they give differing accounts of the Easter story is important for the historian. If they simply parroted one another, we would have no purchase on the issues. But the gospels are also subject to strong post-crucifixion influences, especially the early church's developing understanding of the meaning of Jesus's ministry. His death, which needed explaining, and Resurrection, which was obviously unexpected, came to be interpreted in terms of atonement for sin (the great Christian contribution to Jewish theology), while that and the failure of the expected Second Coming were turned into a call for a world-wide mission to the Gentiles. On both counts, the early church came forcefully into conflict with Judaism. These essentially post-crucifixion developments tended to be projected back into the gospel accounts of Jesus's life. Strip them away and a historical core emerges.

Jesus was seen by the Jewish leaders as yet another dissident. The reason given in the gospels — his doctrinal clashes with the

Pharisees — is probably exaggerated. Jesus had no time for legal niceties, but there was no case there for arrest, let alone execution. Rather, it was the threat to public order posed by Jesus that concerned the Jewish leaders. If there was trouble in a crowded Jerusalem, Pilate was the sort of man to send troops in first and ask questions afterwards. The credibility of the high priest's competence to control his people was at stake. The mass enthusiasm for Jesus cannot have calmed his fears, nor

can the provocative "cleansing of the Temple". So with the complicity of Judas, Jesus was arrested at night and — then what? The synoptic accounts (the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke) of trial or trials before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish supreme council, are unconvincing. The Sanhedrin could not meet on a feast day, let alone at night, and nothing Jesus had said implies blasphemy. The synoptics retrospectively emphasise the importance, pathos and irony of Jesus's trial, while fully

implicating the Jews. John's account of a private interrogation before Caiaphas (minus the theology) is more plausible. As high priest he liaised with Pilate. Jesus was then taken before Pilate and examined by the Roman process of *cognitio*: before the "judgment seat" (*tribunal*), accusers made allegations about the defendant (disturbing the people, urging them not to pay tribute, calling himself a king), defence was invited, and the prefect passed whatever sentence he wished.

The most important charge laid before Pilate was sedition. "Are you King of the Jews?" was the key question, and "King of the Jews" was on the *tabula* affixed to the cross. That is why Pilate condemned Jesus: a threat to Rome required Roman punishment. With hindsight, the gospels depict a Pilate reluctant to execute — so much so that the last Christian writer Tertullian called him *pro sua conscientia Christianus*.

But Pilate could do what he liked. Given his record, he probably condemned a man whom he saw as yet another minor trouble-maker without a second thought. And minor Jesus seemed. The works of the great Pharisee historian Josephus, full of insignificant dissidents like Jesus son of Ananias, who went about crying "Woe to Jerusalem" even after the prefect had him flogged, never even mentions Jesus Christ. Discussing Christianity, the Roman historian Tacitus simply says: "its founder Christ was executed by Pilate governor of Judea in Tiberius's reign."

If Pilate did hesitate — and Luke records that he first suggested a light beating — it was shrewd of Caiaphas to argue that by rejecting the death penalty, Pilate would be *no amicus, no "friend of Caesar"*. Amicus in such contexts had strong overtones of political allegiance, and Tiberius had revived the treason law. Pilate knew he was vulnerable. But why, incredibly, release Barabbas, guerrilla and brigand? It was in the church's interests to stress Jesus's pacifism: he was no threat to Caesar. His conduct at the trial and the Jews' success in releasing the militant Barabbas both made the point.

Sentence passed and his worldly possessions shared out among his captors (as Roman law prescribed), Jesus was crucified. To his followers it must have been a blow like a thunderbolt. An even greater thunderbolt was to follow. But here the historian creeps away. The ancient Greeks established the foundations of true historiography on the principle that it excluded the supernatural. As a spiritual event, the Resurrection can be handled by the historian, but not as a supernatural one. Christians believe in the supernatural. That is their problem. No historian can. That is his.

The author is senior lecturer in classics at Newcastle University.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

On Thursday night I arrived in Scotland. I lead a hit-and-thunder sort of life, and one of the drawbacks is that you lose touch with the real world — of television.

Things are happening out there. Characters in *EastEnders* are falling in and out of love, Oliver Reed has got drunk again, and Michael Fish is doing his reports. But of these things I am only dimly aware. Moving in the twilight-world of "reality", I cannot flick in and out with a remote control monitor.

This makes conversation with my fellow countrymen difficult. The things they talk about are strange to me. I must have looked a fool the other day when, as we discussed TV drama on a radio programme, it became apparent that I thought *Twin Peaks* was a mountaineering documentary. I watch television only randomly — usually when it happens to be on in a room I have entered — and so see the world of the small screen as an alien might see it, coming as an outsider to things of which I know nothing, able to make little sense of them.

So I cannot tell you the name of the show on the TV as I walked into the room in Perthshire around midnight on Thursday. Nor do I know the names of the men and women engaged in a studio discussion. Except, that for one of them.

Let us start at the beginning, almost my first job: a post in the Conservative Party department in 1977. I was an informal place and there were carefree days. Our boss, a friendly young chap

called Chris Patten — Gosh, reader, hold on a moment! My word processor (which tells me when it cannot recognise the spelling of a word, and suggests alternatives) has just refused to accept "Chris". A message flashes out on the screen: "Try CHRIST". Too late. Mr. Icke has got there first. Anyway, as I was saying, Chris held the reins at the research department deftly but loosely, and the atmosphere was relaxed. Mrs. Stagg made the tea, Mrs. Young manned the antiquated telephone exchange, and I shared a room with a youth of about my age called Mick.

We did not take ourselves very seriously. Shared mischief at the expense of the head of our section, gossip about the extraordinary behaviour at parties of other researchers, a sense of mutual exasperation at our leader's notion that she could actually change anything in a doomed nation... these things united us. These, and horseplay: teasing Mrs. Stagg about her tea. "Stagg", Mick called her.

Mick was a fresh, chubby-faced fellow: solid by nature and in build, and exceptionally good natured. Though bright, he was a straightforward intellect. If he had ambitions, they hardly showed through a genial and unmalicious personality. He was a matter-of-fact sort of bloke, comradely, the kind who might have been a rugby player at university.

We had the same sense of humour, I fear. When the head of our section told us he had been to see his secretary at home, where she had some furniture for

sale, adding "I'll have a very big chest", Mick and I kept giggling for weeks. It all seems like yesterday.

On the TV screen as I walked in, the studio group was looking at a video clip about a man who wraps buildings. Entire buildings, thousands of dollars are spent, it seems, covering skyscrapers in brown paper and string like parcels. Then they are unwrapped again. He is an artist. He also builds curtains across valleys, and photographs them.

After we had seen this clip, the group discussed it. There was a lady in big glasses with pink frames, and an American lady with enormous earrings in four pendant sections, a man with frizzy hair and his shirt buttoned up at the top button, and... surely not, it couldn't be. But it was. It was Mick. He had hardly changed. "Stagg", I could almost hear him saying. "This tea tastes like camel's piss!"

"Michael Dobbs", said the lady with pink glasses, "what was your reaction?"

"Hm", said Mick. "I found it very interesting. Strangely impressive, I mean, when a building is actually wrapped in paper, you somehow see it as a shape don't you think?" Criley.

Then Pink Glasses showed a clip from a drama about politicians and civil servants. Pendant Earrings quite liked this one. The others didn't. "This is a terribly '80s conversation," said Top-Button-Done-Up. "Isn't it?"

"Michael Dobbs", said Pink Glasses, "you are, after all, the author of *House of Cards*: how do you see it?"

Something best forgotten

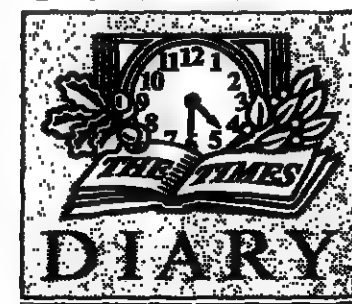
Sir Charles Powell, who quit Downing Street this week after a year as unofficial foreign policy adviser to both Mrs Thatcher and John Major, has been offered a high-powered job: ambassador to Germany.

The posting, one of the most sought after in the diplomatic service, has seriously tempted Powell, who is on holiday in South Africa deciding between a lucrative career in the City and the less remunerative but fashionable life of a diplomat. He is staying with our ambassador to Pretoria, Sir Robin Renwick, who is about to move up to Washington. Renwick is one of Powell's closest friends — they joined the diplomatic service on the same day — and has been recruited to the campaign to persuade Powell to stay on.

Sir Christopher Mallaby, who can expect to move shortly after two years as ambassador to Bonn, is also trying hard to persuade Powell to stay in the service. If Powell accepts the posting he will be on familiar territory. During his swift rise through the diplomatic ranks he spent three years as first secretary in the Bonn embassy from 1974-77.

Given his wide-ranging expertise, Whitehall pundits say Powell would be better employed as political director at the FO — a job now held by John Weston, who has been tipped to succeed Sir Michael Alexander as ambassador to Nato in January 1992.

But the Foreign Office faces stiff competition to keep Powell. He has already received one firm job offer from the City at a salary far higher than anything he could earn in government service. His Italian wife, Carla, who complains that they cannot afford to have their leaking roof repaired, is



sorely tempted by the prospect of a six-figure income.

If Powell does move to Bonn, what will the Germans make of an ambassador who wrote not only Mrs Thatcher's abrasive Brookes speech attacking the idea of a federal Europe, but the famous minute from a Chequers seminar describing German attitudes as "aggressive and bullying"?

After six years as procurement chief at the Ministry of Defence, Sir Peter Levene is taking with him a memento of his time spent investigating the cost of spare parts. Set in a presentation jewel box, it is a tiny screw, one of a batch bought by the ministry. Each screw cost £47.80.

Trahison de Klerk

As F.W. de Klerk this week sanctioned the return from exile of thousands of ANC activists, a biography of the South African president has disclosed his anguish over the hostility of die-hard Afrikaners to his reforms. In *F.W. de Klerk: The Man in His Time*, his journalist brother Willem says that in terms of Afrikaner tradition and belief, the dismantling of apartheid is a "betrayal of the Afrikaner cause" that borders on blasphemy.

"Throughout F.W.'s career, a passionate concern for Afrikaner interests has formed a leitmotif," writes Willem. "He is deeply distressed by the curses so many

Afrikaners are raining on him. Among his close associates, his amiable smile vanishes when he speaks of the failure of so many of his own people to understand that the new South Africa is a venture for their survival too."

But it was not always so. The book tells of de Klerk's reaction when he learned that his brother had met ANC leaders in London in 1989. "I was sharply rebuked for hobnobbing with terrorists, and packed off to be lectured by a National Intelligence Service officer," writes Willem. Only five months later, de Klerk legalised the ANC and released Nelson Mandela from prison.

Fantasy man

Rumours that the prime minister is trying to change his image have upset poet Wendy Cope. Her narrative poem *The River Girl*, to be published by Faber in May, is likely to be followed by a work dedicated to the famously grey Major, under the working title "If the Prime Minister Fancies You".

Cope, who confesses to having a "semi-erotic" dream about him,



says that a number of friends admit to similar experiences. "Men used to dream about Mrs Thatcher, and now it looks as if women are dreaming of Mr Major. Maybe it's because he is on the

Eightsome reel

Today's Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race will for the first time use the starting order "Attention — Set — Go". Gone is the 136-year-old "Are you ready? Go", which is fast disappearing from the waterways of Europe.

The old instruction has been sold down the river by rowers who say the new starting order is far superior. Not only is "attention" understood in several languages, but the use of the two following bars produces a much fairer start. Even the Germans have now adopted the phrase. "It's so simple and successful," says Peter Coni, treasurer of the World Rowing Federation. "The French used to say 'Etes-vous prêts? Partez', but they too have given it up. *Partez* is a dreadful word, because it has two syllables."

Healey, however, will retain its historic instruction: "When I see that you are both straight and ready I shall start you like this. Are you ready? Go." Coni, who is chairman of the Royal Regatta, explains that Healey likes to do things differently. "We wouldn't want to be dragged screaming into the 20th century, would we?"

The trend towards authentic period performances of 18th-century works has suffered a setback. The British Horn Festival at the Barbican today was to have featured Leopold Mozart's *Sinfonia da Caccia*, which he composed with gun effects and hounds barking. *Alas*, the concert hall authorities have banned the gun. The organisers insist, however, that the hounds have no intention of joining Conan Doyle's silent watchdog and will be present in full cry.



MEASURING PRICES

week most prices in Britain will rise by 1.5 per cent, reflecting the new VAT rate which comes into effect on Monday. As a result, the RPI will fall. This prediction can be made with absolute confidence, for the retail prices index will be determined by retail prices but by mortgage rates and tax. As a result, the confusion about inflation's true inflation performance will continue, even as the RPI figures improve.

Last year John Major, as Chancellor, spoke eloquently about the way that Britain's inflation rate was exaggerated by rising mortgage interest rates - a "price" which had reflected the cost of capital, not the cost of living, and which other European countries excluded from their versions of the index. This introduced a perversity into the most important policy-making in Britain: the high rates which were designed to control inflation actually made it worse. The switch in rates to poll tax added another perversity of the same kind. Designed to curb inflation by making local authority spending more visible, the poll tax only fuelled the inflationary fire.

The poll tax is mercifully headed for an early demise, but the aberrant treatment of mortgage costs and interest rates in Britain's inflation remains a pressing problem. Unfortunately, it is unlikely to be addressed in the short term. For what was an embarrassment to the government on the way up has become a boon on the way down. With interest rates falling and VAT-burdened consumers picking up one third of the cost of the poll tax, the much-maligned headline inflation figure will soon look flatteringly subdued. This is why the government can predict with confidence that inflation will be down to four per cent by the winter - and by reform of the RPI is out of the question until this inflation cycle is completed.

After the next election, ministers may feel free to act. What should they do? Housing

costs could simply be excluded from the index, on the grounds that people see housing increasingly as an investment rather than a form of consumption. But this would be unacceptable. The RPI is used to index pensions and tax allowances. Its validity would be undermined by excluding the largest element in most people's living costs.

Instead, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, formerly headed by the Chancellor's special adviser Bill Robinson, has advocated an alternative way of calculating housing costs which would avoid the perversities of the present RPI. Since house prices have tended to rise, over a long period, in line with earnings, the true cost of housing is not the payment of mortgages, which tends to be recouped from rising house prices. According to the IFS, it is the value of the house depreciated over its likely lifetime. The RPI should therefore reflect higher house prices rather than higher interest rates.

Such a redefinition would leave the weight of housing in the RPI at about six per cent, as it is today, but it would have two advantages. It would make the peaks and troughs of the inflation figures less extreme. It would send more reliable signals both to the government and to the electorate about the success or failure of inflation control.

During the boom years from 1986 to 1988, for example, the IFS measure would have shown that inflation was actually accelerating, not falling, as Nigel Lawson believed. In the past two years, by contrast, inflation would have appeared lower than on the government's figures, discouraging the monetary squeeze which has thrown the economy into deep recession - and in the short term exacerbated the spiral of rising wage claims. The adoption by the Treasury of the IFS measure of housing costs would be a first step towards turning the retail prices index into what it once was: a generally accepted and fair measure of inflation.

ROMAN RUIN

Italy is one of post-war Europe's success stories. From the 1950s to the 1980s, Italy enjoyed steady economic growth, despite having made up for Mussolini by changing governments as often as the revolving door of Italian politics. With Italy now beset by economic and political difficulties, the country is unlikely to be shocked by the resignation of Giulio Andreotti's sixth government. The 72-year-old prime minister is expected to form a new administration - the 50th since 1945 - in the next few months, to last until next year's general election.

Does it matter? According to the conventional wisdom, Italy's political instability is irrelevant to its economic prosperity. Its most successful industrial and financial regions in Italy - Lombardy, Tuscany, Veneto - are also the least troubled by the politicians in Rome. A central government by centrist parties based on patronage rather than ideology is no longer seen by many Italians as a recipe for success. The formula has aged well since it was invented in the late 19th century by Signor Andreotti's mentor, De Gaulle. But the demands for constitutional reform which are now surfacing have sprung disillusionment with a political system seen as corrupt and decadent.

Abroad, Italy carries less weight than it should. Apart from an efficient lobbying operation in Brussels, Rome is not a force in international relations. The prospect of the European market terrifies the big Italian corporations, though the small businesses on which the country's prosperity has been built should survive 1992.

The outgoing government was among the few in Italy's most stable, having lasted nearly two years. There was a genuine difference of principle between the two main parties, Signor Andreotti's Christian Democrats and Bettino Craxi's Socialists. Craxi's latter support for a referendum on executive presidency, directly elected on the French model, though perhaps with fewer powers than De Gaulle's creation. Some Christian Democrats oppose these ideas, though the inscrutable Signor Andreotti has

reserved judgement. The north might favour a stronger, though not an interventionist, government. They have despaired of Rome as it is.

But the poor and reactionary south fears for its subsidies. It is still in the grip of the Mafia, which naturally opposes outside interference. Signor Craxi promises to deal with the Mafia, but when he was prime minister from 1983 to 1987 he was scarcely more effective than Signor Andreotti has been. Northern Italy has reverted to its medieval role as a southern extension of Germany. In Italy, support for a federal Europe reflects frustration with the nation state even more than European idealism.

The real reason for Signor Craxi's decision to smash the coalition was doubtless the Socialists' desire for early elections. Signor Craxi's party stands to gain from the expected losses of the former communists, who have just renamed themselves Democratic Socialists and are not sure how much of their previous identity can be salvaged from the wreck of Eastern Europe.

It is even conceivable that after the election the Socialists will become the largest party of the left. This would break the stranglehold of the Christian Democrats, which has depended on the fact that the communists could dominate any possible coalition of the left. But the Italian electorate dislikes being made to vote more often than necessary. It might punish the Socialists. Signor Craxi is expected to be tempted back into the coalition by one of the compromises for which Signor Andreotti is so famous.

The left may eventually be united behind Signor Craxi's version of social democracy. But Italy will probably continue to lack forthright advocacy of economic liberalism from the right. With a soaring budget deficit and high inflation, despite the exchange rate mechanism, Italy is not a good advertisement for continental Christian democracy. Without liberal principles, the dependency culture of Sicily, Calabria and Apulia will continue indefinitely. Italian politics remains half a century behind the nation and themselves so well.

LOGOMANIA

British Telecom, or BT as it likes to be known, has been told by Camden Council that it cannot use the Telecom Tower in London to display its new logo of a prancing trumpet. There is a longstanding ban on the use of prominent buildings to display "advertising signs." BT feels aggrieved. The Tower is itself a monumental item of corporate advertising. To top it with a trumpet, if somewhat fey, trumpet might well improve what is otherwise one of the uglier features of the London skyline.

Only up to a point. The ban is a sound one. The use of architecture as a backdrop for advertising is rightly regarded as philistine practice smacking of banana republicanism. London's outstanding buildings (in the literal sense) are mostly undistinguished enough, without their being adulterated by hoardings, fixed signs and neon illuminations. A measure of ingenuity has been employed to get round the ban: witness the famous Oxo tower on the south bank of the Thames in Southwark, the reservation of which was demanded precisely because of the Oxo motif cunningly expressed in its brickwork. But the ban is a reasonable element in planning regulations designed to protect the townscape.

The trouble is that the ban is not uniformly enforced - except against those, such as BT, who go to the trouble of honestly asking permission. Crude signs sprout from tower blocks along the M4 motorway out to

Heathrow. The new BT and Mercury call boxes, loud with logos, are stylistic excrescences, street furniture erected without thought for their setting. While pubs tend nowadays in their signing to respect architectural context, the same rarely goes for banks, fast food chains or multiple stores. All appear to have boundless zest to impose their corporate colours and lettering on buildings that may be wholly unsuited to them.

Saddest of all is the townscape along the Thames bank. The National Theatre is the worst offender, having erected a crude digital advertising sign, with flashing letters promoting its businesses. Nothing could be more out of keeping with Sir Denys Lasdun's facade than this fussy distraction. Next door, London Weekend Television has a similar hoarding. Further down, the extraordinary Sea Containers House is topped by the company's name firmly embedded in facade.

All these corporate excrescences should be removed before the river frontage becomes a continuous advertising bazaar, like the approaches to many American cities. The environment secretary, Michael Heseltine, said recently that he could think of no function of the old Greater London Council that needed to be recreated. There are not many, but guarding London's appearance is one of them. The least Mr Heseltine can do is clear up this mess himself.

Need to restore 'lost' regions

From Mr J. M. Bradford
Sir, The prospect of restructuring local government reminds me of a preposterous Times leader which appeared on July 7, 1978. You wrote, "... what it becomes possible to move from the county to patterns that accord better with administrative need, the historic identities of Somerset, Cumberland, Lincolnshire and the rest should be officially restored..."

That time has surely come. You rightly distinguished then between two things - politics and geography. Somerset, a thousand years old, is not primarily a council, it is a place, with associations and traditions quite separate from politics. Its identity could indeed be restored now - through the Lord Lieutenant, for instance, if an official function is required - for maps, addresses and boundary signs.

After 17 confusing years the need is surely not in doubt. If in 1974 labels like "Avon" and "Cleveland" had been restricted to councils, leaving places alone, authorities like "Humberston" would not now be under threat. Equally, the striking of centuries-old concepts like Westmorland from the map was surely an act of cultural vandalism.

We are now to have local consultations about the kind of authority people want. Quite right too. It should not matter to local authorities what the region they serve is called. TV companies, water and health authorities and other agencies manage well enough without having their areas shown on maps. Let's use this chance to stabilise our geography once and for all.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BRADFORD
(Chairman, Association of British Counties),
12 Woodbine Terrace,
Healingley, Leeds, West Yorkshire.
March 25.

Scottish plebiscite

From Mr G. B. Lockhart
Sir, Professor Lumsden's suggestion (March 27) that a plebiscite be taken of the northern counties of England to discover whether the inhabitants would not be more comfortable as part of Scotland is one that has been carried out among my own family. One side of the family comes from central Scotland, the other from the north of England.

The views of those of English blood are uniformly unfavourable. (That the sample is small need not mean that this view would be found unrepresentative.)

I propose that we add to Professor Lumsden's proposal a further plebiscite - to discover how many would wish to see Scotland fully integrated into the Union, rather than suffer the current duplicity of half-in, half-out.

Yours faithfully,
GRAEME B. LOCKHART,
3 Carden Street, Dundee.

Not at home

From Mr Cyril Bainbridge
Sir, What has happened to our toy industry? Visiting a toyshop today I noticed that the traditional British plaything the John Bull printing outfit, was now "made in China". And all the dolls were foreigners.

Yours etc.,
CYRIL BAINBRIDGE,
98 Mayfield Avenue,
North Finchley, N12.
March 26.

Departed glories

From Mr Patrick Young
Sir, Mr Truman (March 22) is quite right; and how much jollier would the dreary crowd-control barriers at Buckingham Palace and along the Mall be if they, too, were painted sparkling "garter blue" and gold.

Yours faithfully,
JENNY YOUNG,
31 Lansdowne Road, W11.
March 22.

War artists

From the Director General of the Imperial War Museum
Sir, The President and Past President of the Royal Academy (March 18) lament the fact that only one war artist was sent to the Gulf. But for the existence of the Imperial War Museum's artistic records committee there would not have been any.

The committee commissions artists to cover the activities of British forces in both peace and war, but the museum receives no additional funding for this work and those appointed have no formal official status.

We are always very grateful for the cooperation our artists receive from the Ministry of Defence, but perhaps it is time for government to accept that there should be a permanent, continuing and official artistic record of the armed services. This could be achieved by providing adequate separate funding for the artists records committee and by giving the artists appointed the status of crown servants for the duration of their commission.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BORG, Director General,
Imperial War Museum,
Lambeth Road, SE1.
March 18.

From Mr David Cohen
Sir, I fully agree with the sentiments of Roger de Grey and Hugh Casson. The pictorial expression of the art of war extends far beyond "battle painting" and one can only hope that some of the smallest artists combatants will have recorded what

Severe back pain and its detection

From the Executive Director of the National Back Pain Association
Sir, It was good to see you featuring back pain (report and leading article, March 21). But the problem is now even worse than you say. The number of working days lost each year now stands at 52.6 million - a figure which has doubled in the last ten years.

I was rather sad, however, to see you emphasising back pain as a malingering's complaint and industry's need for a back-pain lie detector.

Back pain is notoriously difficult to diagnose and there is a great deal of debate not only about the relevance of measurement in diagnosing back pain, but also of the scientific validation of machines such as the Isostation B200. In short, we are still awaiting good hard evidence of these machines' success as diagnostic tools compared with existing methods.

To a large extent this caution also applies to their therapeutic use, although given the fact that therapy is often empirical where back pain is concerned, anything that helps the back pain sufferer must be welcomed.

However, until the value of these machines has been reviewed in the standard scientific literature, we are unable to say whether it might not be possible to achieve similar results by alternative methods at a much lower cost.

But it is the image you present of many back-pain sufferers as shirkers and malingers that must be dispelled. Back pain is a medical symptom about which too little is known. It is often misunderstood and trivialised, in marked contrast to the level of misery it causes.

Why has back pain disability doubled in the past ten years? Where should research now be concentrated? What can we do to educate people to look after their backs? How can we help back-pain sufferers?

Our association is working hard to address these issues, but few resources are being devoted to what

Wetland birds at risk

From the Director of Conservation, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Sir, The wetland birds of the Somerset Levels and Moors, one of Britain's largest remaining lowland wet meadow systems, are indeed under threat (report, March 21). Despite the facts that large areas receive protection as sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) and environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), and that millions of pounds of public money have been injected into the farming community to protect these important habitats, breeding wading birds are in disastrous decline.

The RSPB first surveyed the area in 1977, and followed this up with further surveys in 1983 and 1987. We have also monitored the breeding birds on our West Sedgemoor reserve on the Levels, on an annual basis.

Between 1977 and 1987 there were large-scale falls on the whole Levels in the breeding wader populations - lapwing, for example (a 54 per cent decline), snipe (69 per cent), black-tailed godwit (83 per cent) and reedbed (20). Six species of wintering waterfowl also declined in numbers between 1976-7 and 1989-90. By no stretch of the imagination could the decline of these species be attributed to predation.

Management of water is the key to success. The Somerset Levels and Moors are rapidly becoming too dry for wading birds; increasingly they do not attempt to breed, as conditions are not suitable. The government should therefore insist that payments made to farmers under the SSSI and ESA systems are linked to proper water management, with occasional shallow flooding in winter and damp conditions persisting into the late spring.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM WYNNE,
Director of Conservation,
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire.
March 22.

Trollope corner

From Mr Ivor Stolliday
Sir, The controversy about whether room can be found for Anthony Trollope in Poets' Corner (report, March 26) might be eased by respecting the wishes of another of its occupants.

Dickens made it very clear that he wished to be laid to rest in the small graveyard beside the walls of Rochester Cathedral.

Rochester is already the major centre for great numbers of visitors interested in Dickens: such a move would enhance this, meet the wishes

they saw and felt for future generations to share.

There will be countless photographic images, but they will be lacking the very different emotions that only artists can portray.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COHEN,
67 Northway, NW11.

From Mr David Cobb
Sir, Mr Roger de Grey and Sir Hugh Casson believe only one war artist went to the Gulf, but at least one other professional artist was there, and at the Falklands. The Royal Navy sent me to both theatres twice (as an unpaid if elderly volunteer) and I have not long completed the resulting commission on the Falklands for navy, army and civilian contractors.

Many non-professional artists may have served in the Gulf unknown to the Imperial War Museum, the Royal Academy, or the Ministry of Defence. None of these bodies encourages the study of art in war and cannot expect to have knowledgeable artists ready when war breaks out.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID COBB,
Woodis, Setley,
Brookhurst, Hampshire.

From Mr Peter W. Bayliss
Sir, The Ministry of Defence should now address itself to having "artists in residence", on short tours, covering all aspects of service life in the

Lest we forget heroic Yugoslavs

From Sir Alexander Glen
Sir, Fifty years ago today, on March 27, 1941, a group of Yugoslav officers led a rising to prevent their country from combining with the Axis powers. War was the certain outcome, but support was wholehearted, extensive and courageous.

The Axis attack that followed, on April 6, was ruthless and brutal. Defences were fragmented, fighter aircraft were too few and, despite gallant individual actions, mutiny compounded weakness. Massacres by the Ustachi added elements of religious and ethnic war to Hitler's partition, occupation and terror.

Nevertheless, resistance forces were in the field by June: the Loyalists (to distinguish them from other Centurians) under Mihailovic, the Communists (later the National Army of Liberation) under Tito. Each of these factions was resolved to mould the nation's future according to its own very different lights - differences which proved irreconcilable in the merciless civil war that followed.

As the then assistant naval attaché in Belgrade, I am one of the few Britons alive today who witnessed these events at first hand. I knew and respected Draz Mihalovic, and I am proud to have played a part with Tito's Partisans in Peljesac in 1943 and on the Danube and in north-east Serbia in 1944. The indomitable courage of the Yugoslav peoples on both sides, victims of unimaginable circumstances, remains undimmed in my memory.

That courage should be recalled today, when once again Yugoslavia faces tragic problems.

Yours very truly,
ALEXANDER R. GLEN,
The Dover House,
Stanton, Broadway,
Worcestershire.
March 27.

Official statistics

From the Director of the Central Statistical Office
Sir, Roger Nightingale ("I'm sorry, I'll add that up once more", *Business and Finance*, March 26) clearly understands very little about the balance of payments statistics.

First, the example he quotes is wrong. Expenditure by tourists is measured by a statistical enquiry, the International Passenger Survey, that obtains information directly from tourists as they enter or leave the United Kingdom. Individuals' transactions in foreign exchange have not been monitored by government since the ending of exchange controls over ten years ago.

Secondly, he confuses CSO's projections of invisibles with its estimates based on reported data. In order to provide a figure for the whole of the current account, when the monthly figures of trade in goods are published, CSO includes a monthly projection of invisibles. The CSO specifically points out that this projection is based on very little information.

Most of the revision to the 1990 estimates published on March 13 resulted from replacing the projection for the fourth quarter with the first estimate based on actual data then available for the quarter.

Finally, the reference to a "mendacious CSO" is insulting to CSO staff. The task of compiling statistics is difficult enough to carry out without unhelpful and ill-informed comment. Specific proposals about improving the statistics would be far more constructive.

Yours sincerely,
JACK HIBBERT,
Director,
Central Statistical Office,
Great George Street, SW1.
March 26.

Missing an hour

From Canon Lisle Ryder
Sir, It is to the inconvenience of Christians that once again we lose an hour's sleep before a major festival. In 1988 the start of British Summer Time was appointed for Palm Sunday. In 1989 it was Easter; 1990 Mothering Sunday, and this year Easter again.

Seeing that BST ends about eight weeks before the winter solstice, it would seem logical for it to start eight weeks after the shortest day. This would fall on the third or fourth Sunday in February.

Maybe there is some reason I have missed. If not, I hope that by 1994 Easter will no longer begin with losing an hour's sleep; or perhaps more significantly a proportion of our congregations.

Yours faithfully,
LISLE RYDER,
1 Holywell Hill,
Henwick Road, Worcester.
March 25.

From Mr Simon Dover
Sir, Early next Sunday morning, which is in the middle of Passover, the clocks go forward an hour. However, in this age of electric clocks the Orthodox Jewish community will not be allowed to alter them until Sunday night. Thus for about 18 hours some of our citizens will remain on GMT as the rest enjoy British Summer Time.

How am I to interpret the times of services, etc., published by synagogues and the rabbinate?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON DOVER,
Flat 2L, 1 Herndon Court,
Broad Road,
Newton Mearns, Glasgow.
March 26.

SOCIAL NEWS

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.R.E. Adler and Miss C.E. Cox
The engagement is announced between Timothy, son of the late Mr Louis R. Adler and of Mrs Adler, of Bigbury, Devon, and Charlotte, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Cox, of Frome, Somerset.

Mr N.J. Brockbank and Miss M.A. Hale
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Peter Brockbank, of Uckfield, East Sussex, and Meredith, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs George Hale, of Auckland, New Zealand.

Mr R.G.U. Carbutt and Miss P.A. Gwilliam
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs David Corbett, of Shobdon, and Penny, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Gwilliam, of Broadwood, Herefordshire.

Dr F.C. Dickson and Dr A.G. Wardropper
The engagement is announced between Fraser, elder son of Helen and Tom Dickson, of Winchester, and Alison, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Wardropper, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Mr L.M. Johnson and Miss T.G. Burke-Gaffney
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs D. Johnson, of Dray House, Titchfield, Hampshire, and Theresa, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.E. Burke-Gaffney, of Troon Court, Sunninghill, Ascot, Berkshire.

Mr P.J. Moss and Miss F.C. Riddell Smith
The engagement is announced between Peter Moss, 18 Cloudesty Street, NI, son of Mr and Mrs Basil Moss, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Riddell Smith, of The Cottage, Marden.

Dr J.A.L. Nicholson and Miss K.J. Allen
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Nicholson, of Colchester Court, Kensington, and Katy, daughter of Mrs M.L. Branson, of Sevenoaks, and of Mr A.K. Allen, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Mr J.H. Riddough and Miss S.W. Duke
The engagement is announced between James Harry, only son of Mr and Mrs J. Christopher Riddough, of Bingley, West Yorkshire, and Susan Wendy, only daughter of Mrs Sybil Duke and the late Mr John Duke, of St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.

Mr P.J.P. Roberts and Miss L.A. Clayton
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Roberts, of Spax, Buckinghamshire, and Louise, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs A.J. Clayton, of Holport, Berkshire.

Captain J.M. Robertson and Miss K.L. Hamish
The engagement is announced between Captain Jonathan Robertson, Royal Engineers, eldest son of Major and Mrs J.C. Robertson, of Sherborne, Dorset, and Katherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Hamish, of Bramcote, Nottingham.

Mr D.P. Rowe and Miss K.A. Inman
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Rowe, of Souldridge, Hampshire, and Katherine, daughter of Mr D.C. Inman, of Cranleigh, Surrey, and of the late Mrs S.T. Inman.

The Very Rev Dr D. Shaw and Miss A.L. Dallapiccola
The engagement is announced between the Very Rev Dr Duncan Shaw, The Manse of Craigentinny, Edinburgh, and Anna Libera, the University of Heidelberg, only child of Dr Laura C. Dallapiccola, Florence, and the late Professor Luigi Dallapiccola.

Mr R.J. Tanner and Miss P.M. Hyde
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr John and Dr Mary Tanner, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hyde, of Euston, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Lord Armstrong of Ilminster, 64; Mr Warren Beatty, actor, 54; Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, vice-chancellor, Supreme Court, 61; Miss Joyce Carey, actress, 93; Mr Eric Clapton, guitarist, 46; Mr J. E. Coates, naval architect, 69; Mr George Easton, chief constable, Dumfries and Galloway, 49; Professor Sir Ernst Gombrich, OM, former director, Warburg Institute, 82; Sir John Gray, marine biologist, 73; Mr Rolf Harris, entertainer, 61.

Mr J.S. Jennings, a managing director, Royal Dutch/Shell Group, 54; Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman, Tesco, 54; Mr Brendan O'Neil, chairman, Prison Governors' Association and governor, HM Prison, 50; Lord Rayner, 65; Mr Tom Sharpe, novelist, 63; the Rev David Staple, General Secretary of the Free Church Federal Council, 61; the Countess of Sutherland, 70; Lord Tansley, 57; General Sir Richard Trent.

Memorial service

Mrs H. Pelham-Clinton
A memorial service for Mrs Hermione Pelham-Clinton was held at the Parish Church of Porlock, Somerset, on Saturday, March 16. The Rector, the Rev Cyril Must, officiated.

The Hon. Michael Tolle-mache, cousin, and Mr John Hubbard read the lessons and Mr Campbell Voulaine gave an address.

Among those present were Mr Jasper Hubbard and Mrs Hubbard (niece), Miss R. Hubbard, Diana Duchess of Newcastle, Mr and Mrs J. Underwood (representing Mrs Rose Laverick), Mrs J. Westmacott and Mrs M. Wykeham-Fiennes.

Appointments

Mr Herbert Laming to be Chief Inspector of the Social Services Inspectorate at the Department of Health, Mr Laming, the Director of Social Services in Hertfordshire, will succeed Sir William Utting, who will be retiring in July.

Mr Albert Wheeler and Mr Kevin Hirst to be full-time board members of the British Coal Corporation.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal will attend the Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Clubs' boat race at noon.

Anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: Maimonides, philosopher and physician, Cordoba, Spain, 1135; Francesco de Goya, painter, Fuendetodos, Spain, 1746; Charles Booth, shipowner and sociologist, Liverpool, 1840; Paul Verlaine, poet, Metz, France, 1844; Vincent van Gogh, painter, Zandert, Netherlands, 1853; Sean O'Casey, dramatist, Dublin, 1880.

DEATHS: Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban, military engineer, Paris, 1707; William Hunter, obstetrician and medical writer, London, 1783; George (Beau) Brummell, man of fashion, Caen, France, 1840; Rudolph Steiner, scientist, founder of anthroposophy, Dornach, Switzerland, 1925; Léon Blum, premier of France 1936-37, Jouy-en-Josas, 1950; James Cagney, actor, 1986.

A terrorist bomb killed Airey Neave, MP in the House of Commons car park, 1979.

OBITUARIES

LEE ATWATER



Lee Atwater, former chairman of the Republican party and manager of George Bush's presidential campaign of 1988, died yesterday of a brain tumour aged 40. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia, on February 27, 1951.

LEE Atwater was given the job of chairman of the Republican National Committee as his just reward for the unrelenting — some might have said deadly — campaign with which he ensured the election of George Bush to the presidency of the United States in 1988. Atwater was castigated in many quarters for his "pit bull politics", his manner of going for the jugular of a political opponent with any dirty weapon that came to hand. But in truth he regarded political campaigning as a barely controlled form of ground fighting and he little cared what casualties were left in the wake of his Republican charge. It was entirely in character that his office walls should have been decorated with pictures of the Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, while a well-thumbed copy of Clausewitz's classic, *On War*, was a constant travelling companion.

He had been in politics from an early age. He learned his trade in his native South, serving an internship in Senator Strom Thurmond's office while still at the University of South Carolina, where he took degrees in history and communications (a thesis for one of his degrees was on "negative campaigning" — the politics of playing on an opponent's weaknesses). He worked among college students during the 1972 presidential campaign of Richard Nixon and by 1974 he had founded his own political consultancy. In 1978 he was

political director in the campaign which saw Thurmond re-elected to the Senate for South Carolina.

The senatorial stage could not contain his undoubted flair and he expanded into presidential politics, becoming, in 1980, manager of Ronald Reagan's South Carolina primary campaign and in 1984 a senior national official in Mr Reagan's landslide re-election win over the Democrat Walter Mondale. Mr Bush had noticed him as early as 1974 and chose him as his campaign manager for his 1988 presidential bid. In the primaries Atwater routed the opposition in blitzkrieg style after a really disastrous start for Mr Bush in which he had finished only third in the Iowa caucuses in February. The position was retrieved with a win in the New Hampshire

primary in the following week, but it was then the campaign shifted to south of the Mason-Dixon line that Atwater's flair and experience of the region showed. The "Southern Firewall" Atwater had constructed delivered the votes for Mr Bush and thereafter he was swept to the Republican nomination.

But the presidential campaign proper opened with Mr Bush badly trailing the Democrat candidate, Michael Dukakis, in the opinion polls. Atwater swung the negative politics thesis into action with a vengeance in a campaign which has become infamous. He focused attention through a relentless television advertising campaign on a black convicted murderer called Willie Horton, who had committed rape while on parole from a prison in

Massachusetts, of which Dukakis was governor. The aim was to show Dukakis as a man who was "soft on crime". At one point in the campaign Atwater told a Republican audience "If I can make Willie Horton a household name we'll win the election." These brutal simplicities worked their effect on an American psyche which was sensitive about the country's appalling crime statistics and Mr Dukakis's lead began to evaporate.

After Mr Bush's election Atwater became chairman of the Republican party, a post which he occupied with unabated aggression. Democratic leaders were frequently moved to demand his resignation from Mr Bush in a sulphurous climate in Congress which saw a crude homosexual smear attempt on Mr Tom Foley, the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Even Mr Bush was forced to intervene and confess himself "disgusted" and admonish his over-zealous party chairman.

In the event Atwater was not to enjoy his notorious tenure of the post for long. After a brain tumour was diagnosed and failed to respond to treatment Atwater stood down first as party spokesman and then as party chairman. From his sickbed he apologised to those he had calumniated, notably Mr Dukakis, deploring his own methods for their "naïveté".

Away from the political maelstrom Atwater was a considerable blues guitarist and liked to play with leading musicians whenever he had the opportunity. On one occasion he recorded an album with B. B. King.

He leaves his widow, Sally, whom he met in Washington, and their three daughters.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL MICHEL GOURAUD

Lieutenant-General Michel Gouraud, who was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for his part in the "putsch" against General de Gaulle in Algeria in April 1961, died in Versailles on March 20 aged 85. He was born in Paris on June 10, 1905.

MICHEL Gouraud, the son of a well-to-do doctor, was the son of a renowned French military family — his uncle, the one-armed General Henri Gouraud, was one of the heroes of the first world war. Gouraud began his own, initially highly distinguished, career in the army after completing his studies at the military engineering academy the *École Polytechnique*. Taken prisoner in the initial stages of the second world war, he escaped in 1940 and rejoined the French interior forces as a major in 1942, rising to the rank of lieutenant-colonel at the end of the war. He was awarded the *Croix de Guerre* for his war services and was later made Commander of the *Légion d'Honneur*. Promoted to lieutenant-general in 1959 at the age of 55, he was put in charge of the French forces in the Constantine area of Algeria in the midst of the Algerian Civil War the following year.

When generals Challe, Joubaud, Salan, and Zeller mounted their "putsch" against what they regarded as de Gaulle's policy of "capitulation" in Algeria in April 1961, Gouraud suffered agonies of conscience, being as appalled by the idea of revolt as by the prospect of abandoning "French Algeria" to the Algerian insurgents. After wavering throughout the first two days of the revolt, he finally committed himself publicly to joining the rebel-

lions generals on the evening of April 23 — too late to give much assistance, but in time to shatter a lifetime's career of honour and distinction.

The attempted coup collapsed within only four days, after conscripts in Algeria refused to join their mutinous officers and de Gaulle showed that he had national support for his Algerian policies. Two of the four leaders, Challe and Zeller, gave themselves up. Two others, Salan and Joubaud, went on to lead the underground Secret Army Organisation (OAS) which tried several times to assassinate de Gaulle even after Algeria gained its independence in July 1962.

Judged *in absentia* by a military tribunal in Paris, Salan and Joubaud were condemned to death, though this was later commuted to life imprisonment. Challe and Zeller were sentenced to 15

years imprisonment and Gouraud to seven years.

Gouraud was released in 1965 after being granted amnesty by de Gaulle. Three years later, at the height of the French student riots of May 1968, all other officers still serving sentences for offences committed during the Algerian civil war were likewise released.

After his release, Gouraud worked for four years as a consultant for an insurance group in Paris, before retiring at the age of 65 in 1970. In 1982, he benefited from the full pardon granted by President Mitterrand to all those involved in the Algerian uprising, being allowed to resume his title of lieutenant-general (retired) with all its associated rights and privileges.

In 1935, he married Charlotte de Baillencourt de Courcel by whom he had seven children.

ALFREDO CAMPOLI

Alfredo Campoli, Italian-born British violinist, died on March 27 in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, at the age of 84. He was born in Rome on October 20, 1906.

ALFREDO Campoli was a musician who, like Eileen Joyce who died two days before him, divided his career between the serious and the popular repertory. A player of silvery tone, innate musicianship and technical virtuosity, he loved to play the works of Paganini and charming trifles, as much as he did the works of the classical repertory. But whatever he tackled, he never faltered in his gift of lyrical grace.

He received his musical education entirely from his father who was a violin professor at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia in Rome until the family moved to London when he was six. There he became a child prodigy, appearing in public at the age of 10. Before he was 13 he had already won a number of prizes, and in 1919 received the gold medal of the London Musical Festival for his account of the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto, which continued to be a favourite of his throughout his career and to which he brought a lightness of touch and warmth of tone exactly appropriate to its needs.

At 15 he was already touring the country giving what were then known as Celebrity Recitals, playing a wide variety of pieces.

When the slump came in the 1930s he formed his own small orchestra, the Alfredo Campoli Salon Orchestra, to play light music in public and over the radio, an activity which brought him enormous popularity. However he kept his serious career going and was a regular soloist at the Proms.

At the outbreak of war he disbanded his orchestra and gave recitals to the troops in Britain and abroad. After the end of hostilities he resumed his concert career, playing the major concertos with leading orchestras as well as giving solo recitals all over the world. On one occasion an admiring Leningrad audience obliged him to play 11 encores before he was allowed to leave the platform. He also recorded several concertos, discs that have stood the test of time.

He made his US debut at the Carnegie Hall in 1953, and twice toured the USSR. In 1955 he gave the premiere of Bliss's Violin Concerto, which is dedicated to him and which he recorded. During the 1960s he formed a duo with the young pianist Valerie Tryon, and it proved a happy partnership.

In retirement he continued to live happily in his Highgate home, teaching and playing bridge. He played the Dragonetti-Stradivarius of 1700, which he was always proud to show to visitors.

He married, in 1942, Joy Burbridge, and is survived by her.



DR HAN LIH-WU

Sir Berkeley Goss writes:

HAVING enjoyed the friendship of Dr Han Lih-wu for 55 years I think the obituary (March 22) summarises well his achievements. I spent six of those years at the British embassy in China — in Peking, Nanjing, finally Hankow and Chungking, the two temporary wartime capitals. All three ambassadors under whom I served had the highest regard for Dr Han as a sincere friend of Britain.

It was not until the nationalist government retreated to Taiwan in 1949 that the full influence of this remarkable

Chinese scholar and politician could be brought to bear effectively on the educational, political and cultural life of this last bastion of China. There it was, as I found when I visited, island in 1974 in the standard of education and government.

But for me an even greater monument to him was the National Palace Museum, packed with the marvellous art treasures he had rescued so courageously and adroitly from the mainland under the noses of the communists in 1949.

Easter fresco found at Forde

A FRESCO of the Crucifixion uncovered in the undercroft of the old dormitory at Forde Abbey, Chard, Somerset, is thought to have been painted by Cistercian monks in the fourteenth century.

It depicts Christ on the cross with the Virgin and St John standing in opposite positions to the three usually adopted in Crucifixion paintings. A colony of about 20 Cistercians from Waverley, Surrey, settled in the abbey after leaving the Benedictine order. Now the building and its 2,000 acres is owned and lived in by Mr Mark Roper, a farmer, and his family.

Mr Roper says visitors to the abbey's gardens will be welcome to see the Crucifixion mural. He said: "It really is very exciting. We discovered the fresco last summer when we were scraping off a layer of distemper prior to repainting the wall. But it has taken until now for the Courtauld Institute to bring out their report on it. And it had to be cleaned by experts."

Church news

Appointments
The Rev James E. Hansen, Canon, Herefordshire, is to be Priest-in-Charge, Hereford, St Andrew's Cathedral.
The Rev John Hargreaves, Canon, St Thomas, Worcester, is to be Priest-in-Charge, Worcester, St Andrew's Cathedral.
The Rev Martin W. Jarrett, Canon, Herefordshire, is to be Priest-in-Charge, Hereford, St Andrew's Cathedral.
The Rev John Jarrett, Canon, Herefordshire, is to be Priest-in-Charge, Hereford, St Andrew's Cathedral.
The Rev John Jarrett, Canon, Herefordshire, is to be Priest-in-Charge, Hereford, St Andrew's Cathedral.

University news

Oxford
Elections
Oriental College
Sarah Anne Coakley (BA Cambridge; THM Harvard; PhD Cambridge) has been elected to a tutorial fellowship in theology at Oriental College from October 1.

WOLFSON COLLEGE
Lecturer in International Law
Wolfe, a Fellow of Wolfson College, has been elected to a tutorial fellowship in theology at Oriental College from October 1.

Dr Pauline Weetman, of Stirling University.
Head, Stirling University, Department of Biological Sciences, has been elected to a tutorial fellowship in theology at Oriental College from October 1.

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Move to protect ancient towns

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A REVIEW of England's historic towns is under way to identify archaeological potential and planning difficulties, English Heritage has announced. Preliminary results indicate that some 120 Roman towns existed, rising to only 160 in the early medieval period, but with an explosive development to 950 towns by the sixteenth century.

Current methods of dealing with ancient towns cannot provide a sufficient or adequate protection for the urban archaeological heritage, says Mr Bill Starin in the English Heritage's *Conservation Bulletin*. "The answer must lie in a more dynamic approach involving the use of wider planning powers, but, above all, strategic forward planning."

The aim, he says, "must be to reduce to a minimum the uncertainty concerning the presence or absence of important archaeological remains", and to this end, English Heritage has drafted definitions of England's different urban types in order to identify various classes of town on the basis of age, status or function.

While each of our nationally important major historic towns will require its own strategy document, and ideally a separate plan would be developed for each of the 950 medieval or earlier towns so far identified, in practice priority must be given to the 80 or so large market towns and seaports, most of which developed from Roman or early medieval antecedents, Mr Starin says.

Immediate priority will be given to the 30-odd towns with "long chronological se-

quences, good survival, and obvious development pressure", he says. Work has already commenced on strategy plans for five of these: London, York, Chester, Cirencester, and Durham. Except in London, the projects are partnerships between English Heritage and the local planning authorities.

Each strategy document will include a survey of the survival of archaeological deposits and the provision of a background historical study against which this can be set, resulting in a statement on the future management of the archaeological resource. This will include a list of areas where preservation is warranted, and areas where further evaluation is needed.

The plan has been developed after realisation that, while standing monuments and historic buildings are usually protected by scheduling or listing, archaeological deposits are less effectively recognised within existing preservation strategies. Mr Starin says. This leads to absurd situations, such as that where the Roman town sites of Wroxeter and Silchester are scheduled monuments, but the Roman deposits underlying cities that remained prosperous, such as York and Lincoln, are not necessarily protected at all.

The paradox is that settlements which, because of their long history and success, are still burgeoning and have contributed to English history for perhaps 2,000 years, have much less protection than places which in some sense failed and fell into desuetude. Source: English Heritage's *Conservation Bulletin* 13.



Slice of history: Nigel Angelbeck, of English Heritage, reclaims a length of cornice for the architectural study collection

The snapper-up of considerable trifles

Treve Rosoman, the curator of English Heritage's architectural study collection, often receives strange gifts. The latest, laid like a founding child on the doorstep of his office, came in a Marks & Spencer carrier bag. It was a foot-long piece of old, moulded pine covered in green, flaking paint. "A nice solid piece of 1760 dado rail from London's East End," he says. "It fits in well with the many varieties of dado rail in our collection."

There are more than 2,000 objects of architectural decoration and technical detail in Mr Rosoman's care, from an entire chimney piece complete with grates to a 2in strap of wallpaper. There are 8ft-high carved doorcases, roof trusses, brass doorknobs, masonry nails, balusters, cornices, architraves, fine plaster ceiling roses and tatty old staircases. The collection is priceless. "The intrinsic worth of a couple of square feet of wallpaper or a foot of dado rail is negligible, but their historical and architectural importance is immense. You can't put a price on this sort of thing," Mr

A priceless architectural collection is lying in a government store, unseen and unpublicised. Eluned Price reports

Rosoman says. One can put a price on a room's worth of carving, panelling or moulding, as the victims of architectural thieving know only too well. "It is vandalism of the worst sort, which angers me deeply," he says. "A chimney piece carved with musical instruments may be all that's left to tell us this was once a music room. In stealing it, the thieves are stealing the social history of the building as well."

The importance of the architectural study collection lies in this marriage of architectural and social history. Most of its pieces come from London houses which, unlike country houses, were continuously occupied and constantly remodelled. The houses in Grosvenor Square, for example, were owned in their heyday by "upholders", a version of today's interior decorators. They were the supermen of 18th century interior: not only did they

with ox hair and gritty with road sweepings. It is built up with a fine layer of plaster and finally the moulding itself, on to which the actual modifications, cast in a studio then finished by hand, are nailed and plastered. "It is not uncommon to find this exquisite workmanship covered by 30 or 40 layers of paint," Mr Rosoman says.

The architectural study collection was begun at least as early as 1903, when the rebuilding of the Aldwych and the Strand was taking place, and some far-sighted minds from the London County Council realised that excellent architectural detail was being destroyed. Eight years ago Mr Rosoman, originally a furniture historian, was called in to catalogue the collection. He ended up becoming its curator when the Greater London Council disbanded and the collection became the property of English Heritage.

Mr Rosoman, who works within a budget of £7,500, never buys pieces: they are all gifts, which often need to be physically dismantled by himself. He has set up a computer database of the collection and has almost finished the hard catalogue, which will run to ten volumes, each 6in thick.

Few people know of the existence of the architectural study collection, which is held in a government store in west London. It is never advertised, or available for public viewing. And, despite its title, no link exists between the collection and the various schools of architecture.

The good news is that English Heritage is hoping to establish a permanent home for the GLC part of the collection in London and to launch an appeal within the next 12 months.

The bad news, says Julius Bryant, the head of the museums division, is that "as things stand, it couldn't afford to open the collection permanently; viewing would have to be by appointment only."

Their intrinsic worth is negligible, their importance is immense

When Mr Rosoman climbed the scaffolding in a house undergoing renovation in St Georges Street, W1, recently, it was to retrieve a complete section of plaster cornice of 1820 for his collection. "We have 1720s, 1740s, 1790s etc, but an 1820 section, made up of pre-cast plates with acanthus leaves and balls, we didn't have."

From the cross section of a plaster cornice of 1725, consisting of acanthus leaf modillions alternating with rosettes, one can see exactly how it was made. The rough side is a three-quarter-inch layer of thick plaster, hairy

Easter events



Power in miniature: the attraction of model railways endures

□ **Maritime festival:** Three-day celebration in the Maritime Museum and quayside taverns, with plays, guided walks, illustrated talks, puppet shows, competitions and sea shanties. **Maritime Museum, Lancaster. Today, tomorrow, Mon. 12 noon-5pm.**

□ **Model Railway Society open day:** See in action possibly the largest model of its kind in the country, occupying 2,500 sq ft, with 70 locomotives and more than 400 items of rolling stock. **Gainsborough Model Railway, Old Trinity School, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Today, tomorrow 1.30pm-5.30pm, Mon 10.30am-5.30pm; £1, child 50p.**

□ **Holiday time at the royal palaces:** Today, a masque dance demonstration and workshop at the banquetting house, Whitehall, 11am and 2pm. Tomorrow, a similar event of the Baroque period at Kensington Palace state apartments, 2.30pm and 4pm. Monday, egg hunts morning and afternoon at Hampton Court; also, a Tudor Patterns trail on Wednesday and Thursday at 10.30am and 2pm. At Kew on Monday, egg hunts at 11am and 2pm. All events 50p plus normal admission charges.

□ **East Anglian farm:** Lambs, chicks and rabbits on view, and craft demonstrations, including basket and decoy duck making. On Monday, egg painting and other family activities. **Museum of East Anglian Life, Stowmarket, Suffolk (0449 612229). Tomorrow, Mon. 10am-5pm; £2.75, child five-15 £1.50, under five free.**

□ **Easter antiques fair:** Forty exhibitors. Easter hunches at the Spread Eagle Hotel, made famous by the eccentric innkeeper John Footgus. **Town Hall and Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame, Oxfordshire (0844 213661). Today 10am-5pm.**

□ **Flyball - the American way:** How Flyball is taught in America

and Canada. Also, dog-handling competitions and videos. **The Olympiad, Monkton Park, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Tomorrow 10am-5pm; £5.**

□ **Easter craft festival:** More than 70 craftsmen and women selling and demonstrating. Children's entertainment, including puppets and marionettes. **County Ground, Edgbaston, Birmingham. Tomorrow, Mon. 10am-5pm.**

JUDY FROSHAUG

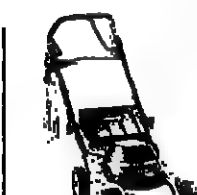
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TELEVISION REVIEW

Return of funny familiar feelings

Lynne Truss
renounces *Twin Peaks*
and focuses on
Tom Jones's larynx in
Omnibus, *The Late Show*, and a period of
inhumanity during
Passion Week

On Tuesday March 26, at 9pm, I formally renounced *Twin Peaks*. It was a simple ceremony, and one that I fancy I shared with many other more-in-sorrow-than-anger ex-*Peaks* around the country. I drank several cups of black coffee, ate some doughnuts out of a cardboard box, and then donned dreamily around the living-room while a finished Glenn Miller record revolved on the turntable, making an eerily amplified "ker-shick, ker-shick" noise, as the stylus wavered in the final groove. It was very moving, actually. Very real.

Finally, after 50 minutes of this, I checked with BBC 2 to make sure the end-credits were rolling, and then threw open the windows to the stormy night, and said slowly into a voice-activated tape-recorder, "The owls may not be what they seem." (A flash of angry white lightning struck the house, starting a small fire.) "But quite frankly this is no longer any concern of mine." And it was miraculous. The storm abated; the record-player switched itself off automatically; and outside on the sparkling lawn little rabbits frolicked in the moonlight. It was all over. *Twin Peaks* had gone.

No doubt a simple unplugging of the television would have been equally effective, yet this exercise in sympathetic magic seemed somehow more appropriate — there being little enough enchantment in everyday life.

Art historian Stephen Bayley would evidently agree. In last night's *Omnibus* on Tom Jones (BBC 1), Bayley took part in an entertaining critical scuffle over the significance of a certain famous ritual of Tom Jones's stage act — namely the dabbling of Jones's sweaty cheeks and armpits with underclothing proffered from the audience. To the truly brainy and imaginative person (like Bayley) the symbolism of this act is much more far-reaching than is commonly thought.

It is not simply a matter, then, of women chucking bikini briefs at a man driving them wild with his pelvic swivel. No, said Bayley. Without getting too technical (or personal) about categories of fatty acid, it seems that Tom Jones's ritual transfer of bodily unguents may represent no less than a confirmation that "witchcraft" persists in modern life — a construction for rock critics have previously considered. From now on, front-row fans will doubtless bring empty phials in which to catch drips of the True Fatty Acid. You never know: it might cure warts, or something.

The programme considered few such tricky intellectual issues. There was no semiological breakdown of "Delilah" or "The Green Grass of Home"; no analysis of the



'From now on, front-row fans will doubtless bring empty phials in which to catch drips of the True Fatty Acid. You never know: it might cure warts, or something'

He mentioned that his first manager, Gordon Mills, had once emphatically advised him that singing was not like boxing: "Even though you feel you are the best singer, you can't go proving it by knocking other singers out." The occasion for this advice was not given, alas, but perhaps Jones had suggested a tournament. The idea recalls to mind those Monty Python sketches, where Greek philosophers tripped each other up, and French Impressionists knocked each other down in the ring.

With so many arts features on television linked closely to the openings of films and the publication of books, and the commencement of extensive UK tours, one starts to get a little wary of the anodyne treatment some of these people get. It was, therefore, a terrific hoot on Tuesday's *The Late Show* when Kirsty Wark announced a discussion of Bret Easton Ellis's controversial book *American Psycho* with the news that Picador, its British publisher, had declined to take part, "because it isn't publishing practice to promote books before

they are published". She kept an admirably straight face while saying this, but the guests on either side scoffed audibly.

There are problems with discussing Bret Easton Ellis's "snuff novel" on television. It is narrated by a yuppie serial killer who mutilates his victims — mainly women — so seductively that, on television, the worst excesses cannot even be mentioned, let alone described. In America there has been an outcry from women's groups, and a resultant boycott of Random House's books. *The Late Show* interviewed Ellis's worried-looking editor, Sonny Mehta, who said he was surprised by the scale of the boo-boo. Then they interviewed baby-faced Ellis himself, who said he was surprised no one had cottoned on to the book's underlying message. In such a cynical age, this capacity for surprise was strangely touching.

Back in *The Late Show* studio, the book's merits were partially defended, but the happy overall impression was that Ellis's book is, in fact, an unworthy candidate for such weighty consideration. In the case of *American Psycho*, the issue of freedom of speech versus the

dangers of violent pornography is seriously complicated by the self-evident fact that the book succeeds only in beguiling the imagination.

In *Passion Week*, it was salutary to be presented with so many examples of inhumanity. There was further police brutality and bureaucratic ruthlessness in the second (and even worse) episode of G.F. Newmann's *For the Greater Good* (BBC 2). On Thursday's 9 O'Clock News (BBC 1) Brian Hanrahan showed us footage of the so-called "turkey-shoot" in the Gulf War — when helicopters picked off helpless Iraqis in the dark. And in last night's *The Dream* (BBC 2), Jeremy Irons played a Dostoevsky character whose pessimism about the evil endemic in human nature was bleak enough to make you cut your own head off.

The source of all this nastiness is, of course, as Jeremy Brett averred in *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (Granada): "When one tries to rise above Nature one is liable to fall below it. The highest type of man may revert to the animal if he leaves the straight road of destiny." Unfortunately, he said this in the context of a preposterous story called "The Creeping Man", in which an elderly professor injects himself with monkey-glands, and acquires, through side-effect, the climbing skills of an orang-utan — but these were wise words, none the less. (Incidentally, he also advised Watson, "Always carry a firearm east of Aldgate," which may be of little interest to colleagues on *The Times*.)

THEATRE

Who dares does not always win

The Almeida Theatre is facing possible closure in a funding crisis. Matt Wolf assesses its importance as an innovator

Just one week before Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent, the Almeida's joint artistic directors, find out if they have won an Olivier award for their adventurous programming, the threatened closure of the theatre comes as a shock to the theatrical system. Ah yes, its detractors will ask, but was not the decade-old playhouse in fact more adventurous during the previous regime of Pierre Audi?

Avant-gardists look back fondly on Audi's tenure which brought Yuri Lyubimov's Dostoevsky adaptation, *The Possessed*, and Théâtre de Complicité's *The Visit* to the London fringe, even as it promoted the new works of Howard Barker (*Possibilities*) and David Rudkin (*The Saxon Shore*). Those, too, were the golden days of the Almeida's Festival of Contemporary Music, which, under the direction of Audi and the American pianist Yvyr Mikhashoff, signified the most important celebration of our own century's music in this country.

Those who impugn the present Almeida regime see the venue as some kind of displaced West End, and, to a certain extent, such thinking is justified. What a pleasure, after all, to see Nicola Pagett, Claire Bloom and Glenda Jackson in these trendy Islington confines before such actresses move on to the less intimate (but better paying) quarters of the West End.

Such perceptions, however, ignore McDiarmid's genuine achievement. Certainly Jean Anouilh's stylish study of sexual manipulation, *The Rehearsal*, could have been mounted directly onto a West End stage instead of moving from the Almeida to the Garrick, but who would have dared produce it in a West End climate which currently favours plays with titles such as *Don't Dress for Dinner*? The likely answer is, nobody.

The same is true of Barker's *Scenes from an Execution*, the stirring meditation on art patronage and the nature of the theatre with which McDiarmid launched his regime in January 1990. That production never did make its expected transfer, despite the star power of Glenda Jackson, so it is unlikely it would have been staged at all if McDiarmid had not offered the Almeida to Barker as the place where he could bring his radio play to the stage. It was a similar story for those hoping to see Claire Bloom in Ibsen's *When We Dead Awaken* in an-

other environment; they would have waited a very long time indeed.

There can be no doubt that London needs a small playhouse devoted to an eclectic repertoire of classics, liberally sprinkled with contemporary work. In January, the Almeida proved uniquely hospitable to Harold Pinter's *Betrayal*, reclaiming the pain behind the ellipses of a work too hastily dismissed in its National Theatre premiere. And whatever now happens to the plans for its West End transfer, chances are that Cheryl Campbell's startlingly passionate and moving performance found its perfect home at the Almeida.

This theatre, too, deserves the right to artistic failure, as is the case with McDiarmid's current revival of Wedekind's *Lulu*. But what better place for Joanne Whalley Kilmer, fresh from Hollywood stardom, to retrieve her theatrical skills than on the London fringe where she first began, albeit at a different address. If this production can be judged a failure, surely it is one the Almeida management should



Stylish: Nicola Pagett in Anouilh's *The Rehearsal*

be able to withstand, even as it survived a similarly poor mounting of Racine's *Bajazet* last autumn. Both plays were of interest even if the production showcasing them never took wing.

What then are we to make of McDiarmid's pronouncement that the Almeida will have to close following the decision by the London Borough Grants Committee to stop its grant of £33,000? Is this a case of directorial grandstanding or a genuine sounding of the alarm? Whichever it turns out to be, the cry has unmistakably gone out and it is one which no theatre aficionado in London can fail to notice.

On Friday we said that the current Venice exhibition on Celtic art was the centrepiece of the Biennale. The Biennale is, of course, in 1993.

Trifle deserving obscurity

The Virtuoso
Swan, Stratford

THOMAS Shadwell is remembered, if at all, for one reason. His contemporary Dryden spent no less than 220 lines rubbishising him in mock heroic couplets. Shadwell has sworn like some literary Hannibal "never to have peace with wit nor peace with sense". His "tragic muse gives smiles, his comic sleep". "All arguments, but most his plays, persuade," trumpeted Dryden, "that for annotated dullness he was made."

So heavyweight an attack creates expectations that, as it turns out, are not fulfilled by the RSC's attempt to rehabilitate Shadwell. The monster bore is only a mildly frisky mouse. If he were alive today, his word processor would doubtless be spilling out boulevard farces, pier-end romps and the odd television sitcom. Phyllida Lloyd's sprightly production suggests *The Virtuoso* is a Restoration amalgam of all three.

The main plot involves two gallants' efforts to get the right girls in defiance of obstructive guardians, annoying rivals and their own emotional confusions; but it is even more lacking in tension, humanity and clarity than plots in

Restoration comedies usually contrive to be. The convoluted dealings of Longvil and Clarinda, Miranda and Bruce are just an excuse for a succession of vaguely linked caricatures and eccentricities, prime among them the "virtuoso" of the title.

For virtuoso, read scientist; and for scientist, read a comically solemn Freddie Jones. He comes oddly attired in a white coat draped over a one-piece swimming costume, his curly hair and beard combining with his knobly face to suggest that Socrates has just wandered out of a Victorian bathing machine. He is, it seems, variously studying the habits of spiders, ways of amplifying the human voice and methods of bottling air. Shadwell regards the character much as Swift regarded the crazed researchers in Gulliver's *Laputa*. For us, he is surely more sympathetic, a blend of Marconi and David Attenborough unlikely to have lived at a time when science and silliness were synonymous in literary minds.

At all events, he brings some freshness to a play in which everybody else is obsessed by sex. Guy Henry's Sir Formal Trifle, looking and sounding like a canting Victorian cleric, stalks his prey with oratorical flourishes and shows of exorbitant gentility. Linda Mariow's Lady Gimcrack, a red-tipped clone of

Snow White's wicked stepmother, opts for gasps, gulps and nymphomaniac palpitations. Richard Bonneville's Sir Samuel Hearty goes hunting first as what seems to be an Edwardian chauffeur, then as a burly pantomime dame.

THAT is characteristic of the evening. There is no good reason for Hearty's disguises except to ensure he gets pummeled. Nor is there any explanation for a scene in which these couples converge on the same bedroom, unknowingly led by the virtuoso's grumpy uncle, Ken Wynne's Mr Snarl, the kind of chap at whom people with names like Miss Swish aim their phone-box ads. "I was so used to it at Westminster School," he explains to Sheila Reid, the black-bodied lady with the cane.

The costumes, music and dancing traverse the centuries, at times creating an impression of dream or organic nightmare. Indeed, I suspect Lloyd wants us to feel we are watching suppressed sexual drives imaginatively erupting into the open. But her audacity and skill cannot finally hide that the play is just a spasmodically enjoyable muddle — and Shadwell deservedly obscure.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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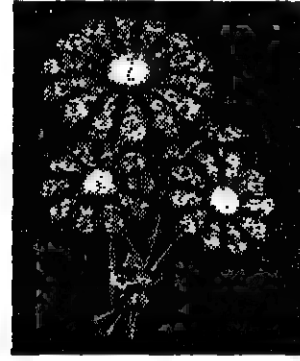


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BBC 1

- 7.30 *Touche' (Turtle)* (7.35 *Charlie Brown and Snoopy*) (7.55 *Egg*) (7.55 *Baker*) Cheryl Baker with another breakfast helping of chat, cookery and pop. This Easter special includes seasonal recipes and games, plus special guest Terry Nutkins of the *Really Wild Show* and music provided by Cheryl's own band Buck's Fizz, performing live in the studio. 8.35 *BraveStarr*. Cartoon (7.55)
- 9.00 *Going Live!* Children's magazine programme introduced by Sarah Greene and Philip Schofield. The special guests include Blue Peter presenter John Leslie, *Grandstand* presenter Morris and international film star and comedian Dudley Moore. 12.12 *Weather*
- 12.15 *Grandstand* introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 *Previews* of the boat race, football and rugby league; 12.55 *News*; 1.00 *Boat Race*: live coverage of the 197th Oxford and Cambridge boat race from Putney to Mortlake; 1.50, 2.25 and 4.30 *Swimming*: the Myci world cup from the Ponds Forge Pool, Sheffield; 2.10, 2.40 and 3.40 *Racing* from Haydock Park; 2.55 and 3.55 *Rugby League*: live coverage of the second semi-final of the S&A Cup challenge cup between St Helens and Widnes at Central Park, Wigan; 4.50 *Final Score*
- 5.10 *News* and weather
- 5.20 *Regional News* and sport. Wales (to 5.55) Wales on Saturday
- 5.25 *Stay Tuned!* Tony Robinson takes a lighthearted look at crime in cartoons
- 5.55 *Jim'll Fix It*. More dreams come true for people of all ages, courtesy of Sir Jimmy Saville. (Ceefax)
- 6.30 *Little and Large*. Syd and Eddie present a rock 'n' roll megamix. With guest Madi Crier and music from Paul Young and Zucchero. (Ceefax)
- 7.00 *Fast Friends*. New quiz show hosted by Les Dawson. The format involves two teams selecting four contestants each from a group of 40. Their teams then go on to do battle against the clock in a knock-out contest. The captain of the team that comes out on top eventually goes forward to a solo round with Les with the opportunity of winning a luxury holiday. (Ceefax)
- 7.30 *Police Rescue*. A feature-length pilot episode to introduce a new drama series about the Australian police. Predictable prejudice from male colleagues is the first hurdle faced by a young female constable when she joins the police rescue service. However, she has to cast aside personal problems when she becomes involved in a desperate search for an epileptic boy lost in the city drains. The search becomes a race against time as the flood waters begin to rise. Starring Simon Todd and Gary Sweet. (Ceefax)
- 9.00 *News* with Michael Barker. (Ceefax) Sport and weather
- 9.20 *Comedy Carrot*. Jasper Carrott presents more stand-up comedy, crazy sketches and strange commercials, helped by Robert Powell (7.00) (Ceefax)
- 9.50 *Film: Mask* (1985). CHOICE: *Mask* arrived at the 1985 Cannes film festival with the director, Peter Bogdanovich, disclaiming the version shown. He complained that the producers had cut eight vital minutes and substituted the music of Bob Dyer for that of Bruce Springsteen. Hollywood directors, from Woody Allen to Fred Zinnemann, took a full-page advertisement in *Variety* to protest against the "censorship" of the film. Universal Pictures took another advertisement in *Variety* to hit back. Meanwhile the film went on its merry way. It is based on the true story of Rocky Dennis, a 16-year-old with a face grotesquely deformed through illness and his determination to make the most of his short life. The film is by no means free of sentimentality but it has a sensitive performance by Eric Stoltz as Rocky, a bravura role by Cher as his wayward mother and a strong lead for its lower middle-class Californian environment. (Ceefax)
- 11.45 *This Week in Jerusalem*. Actor Bruce Alexander reflects on the personality and character of Jesus
- 12.00 *Look, Stranger: Music in My Pocket*. A profile of Raymond Franks, juggling gardener and composer (7.00)
- 12.30 *am* *Surreal*. Christian Alcazar. An Easter tale to the heart of the Burgundy countryside for readings and music sung by young pilgrims from all over the world who have travelled to the village of Tave 1.00 Weather



Comedian Les Dawson is host to a new quiz show (7.00pm)

BBC 2

- 8.00 *George Stevens: A Film-Maker's Journey*. Profile of the American director who made *Shane*, *Shogun* and *Marathon*. 10.45 *Film: Vigil in the Night* (1940, b/w). Downbeat medical drama starring Claude Rains and Anne Shirley. A dedicated nurse takes the blame for a child's death caused by her sister's negligence. Directed by George Stevens
- 12.20 *Yo Yo Ma and Emanuel Ax* teamed up to play all Beethoven's sonatas for piano and cello in five different European cities on consecutive nights. This part of the marathon was recorded in Edinburgh
- 1.25 *Film: Fifth Avenue Girl* (1939, b/w). Comedy starring Ginger Rogers as an unemployed girl persuaded by her millionaire father to pose as a gold digger and marry his avaricious family. Directed by Gregory LaCava
- 2.45 *Maheba*. Episodes 4/1. In Hindi with English subtitles
- 3.20 *Torn and Jerry*. Cartoon (7.00)
- 3.30 *Film: Gone With the Wind* (1939). Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable, Leslie Howard and Olivia de Havilland star in the most famous epic in cinema history. Based on Margaret Mitchell's novel, it follows the passionate love story of Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara against the backdrop of the American Civil War and its aftermath. Directed by Victor Fleming. (Ceefax)
- 7.05 *News* with Melvyn Stewart. Weather
- 7.20 *Waterfront*. The last partner with the famous fell-miller is to Howell. Between the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales (to 7.50)
- 7.50 *Heart of Sowerth: When You Come Back*. For many in Sowerth, 1980 was a year of waiting and hoping. Not for Mrs Nombulelo Mkhulu, who still awaits the return of her son, Mbuyisa, who was forced to flee the country after the 1976 student uprising
- In their own words: General Lee (left) and Grant (right)*
- 8.20 *The Civil War: The Cause*. CHOICE: Not any closer but the one in the United States, which gives the BBC a peg by having broken out 130 years ago. This is an American series which attracted critical praise, as well as huge audiences, when it was screened there last autumn. Then it ran for 11 hours. For British consumption it has been edited down to six hourly parts. Since Lincoln, Grant, Lee and the rest are unavailable for interview, the show does the next best thing and quotes their words, read by an unseen star cast including our own Oscar-winner, Jeremy Irons. Visual sources include contemporary paintings and newspaper headlines but most of all the magnificent photographic record of the war with its incredible images of dead soldiers and gutted buildings. Tonight's opener, though, is about the antebellum, a travel through slavery, John Brown's body and the rough boy from Illinois who became President Lincoln. (Ceefax)
- 8.20 *Rhythms of the World: Seven Nights in New York City*. The first of a two-part look at the music of New York's immigrant communities
- 10.10 *Film: Mortu Nege* (1989). The African film season continues with this drama of love and politics from Guinea-Bissau in West Africa. Set during the final days of the country's war of independence to gain freedom from Portuguese rule, it centres on Dintinga, a freedom-fighter on his way to the front line to find his husband. Portuguese dialogue with English subtitles. Directed by Flora Gomes
- 11.55 *Twin Peaks*. The "wedding of the year" is followed by a fatal honeymoon (7.00) (Ceefax)
- 12.30 *Film: The Servant* (1963, b/w). CHOICE: The Dirk Bogarde season continues with one of his most important films. The Servant finally brings the male role and ushered in a decade of outstanding work that reached its peak with *Death in Venice*. A film which successfully married the spare and astringent writing of Harold Pinter and the ornate visual style of its American director, Joseph Losey. The Servant was taken from a Robin Swicord novel about the humiliation of a rich young man (James Fox) by the despotic but charming (Bogarde) butler who has seduced down and a first northern accent. Bogarde had come a million miles from the Doctor film and romantic leads which made his name. Although the film has its moments of obscenity towards the end, it is a powerful study of decadence and corruption built around an exposé of the British class system. There is effective support from Sarah Miles and Wendy Craig. (Ceefax). Ends at 8.25. NB: clocks go forward one hour at 1.00am

ITV

- 6.00 *TV-am*
- 9.25 *Motormouth*. Children's entertainment programme hosted by Andy Crane, Neil Buchanan and Gaby Roslin. Guests include singer Alan Mowat and Jason Robards. 9.50 *The 100th Anniversary of the Chart Show*. The *Vintage* Video slot features Earth, Wind and Fire
- 12.20 *Saint & Gravel*. Armchair football punditry from Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves
- 1.00 *News* with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.05 *LWT News* and weather
- 1.10 *Grand Sport*. Sports quiz hosted by Dickie Davies
- 1.40 *World Sport Special: A Day at the Races*. The week's major sports news stories. Followed by *The Day at the Races*
- 2.15 *Soccer Special*. Highlights of yesterday's top of the second division games between Oldham and West Ham
- 2.45 *Film: Journey to the Far Side of the Sun* (1989). British sci-fi thriller starring Roy Thomas as an astronaut who discovers a duplicate Earth. It is his double, however, that returns to Earth in his place. Written by Gerry and Sylvia Anderson of *Thunderbirds* and also starring Ian Hendry, Herbert Ross and Patrick Wymark. Directed by Robert Paris
- 4.45 *Results Service* with Elinor Wylie
- 5.00 *News* with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.05 *LWT News* and weather
- 5.15 *The Wipac Pans*. Bizarre comedy series from the *Spitting Image* stable
- 5.45 *Beverly Hills*. 80210. Glossy American drama about a mid-western family who experience culture shock when moving to glitzy Beverly Hills. (Oracle)
- 6.40 *Davro*. Bobby Davro with more improvisations. The classic film *Casablanca* gets the Davro treatment, with unlikely stars including Nigel Kennedy, Keith Chegwin and Roy Castle
- 7.10 *You Best Believe*. Kelly hosting the game show in which celebrity guests place wagers on the public's capacity for self-humiliation. Comedian Brian Conley, television presenter Kim Goody and actor Graham Cole from *The Bill* challenge, among others, 100 schoolchildren to skip 50 times over the same rope and an amateur golfer to get a hole in one by throwing the golf ball
- 8.10 *Columbo: Dagger of the Mind*. Peter Falk stars as the sharp detective in the crumpled coat, the week in London to study Scotland Yard's investigative techniques. He is soon on the case of two Shakespearean actors who murder their benefactor. Columbo's suspicions are aroused by a mix-up involving that truly British accessory, the umbrella. Also starring Richard Briers and Honor Blackman (7.00) (Oracle)
- 10.00 *News* with Nicholas Owen, sport and weather 10.15 *LWT Weather*
- Battle-winner David Jason is Michael Aspel's guest (10.20pm)*
- 10.20 *Aspel & Company*. Michael Aspel's guests include recent *Battle-winner* David Jason, comedienne Joie Lawrence, Bannanians and the Gypsy Kings
- 11.05 *The Making of Perfect Scoundrels*. A behind-the-scenes glance at the new series starring Peter Bowles and Brian Murphy
- 11.10 *Film: After Hours* (1985). Rosanna Arquette and Griffin Dunne star in Martin Scorsese's frenetic black comedy about a New York computer programmer who spends a nightmarish 24 hours on the streets after his date ostensibly commits suicide. The neurotic neighbourhood alive and Dunne is haunted through the demimonde of after hours New York. Although not all the ideas come off, there are well-judged performances from Dunne and Arquette, and Scorsese directs with pace and wit
- 12.55 *am* *Farm Aid*. All-star country and western music special in aid of US farmers featuring Elton John, Guns 'n' Roses, Bruce Hornsby, Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson and John Denver
- NB: the clocks go forward one hour at 1.00am
- 3.20 *Film: Grip of the Stranger* (1955, b/w). Gripping Jekyll and Hyde tale set in the 1880s, starring Peter Lorre as a distinguished novelist investigating the murder of a good-time girl. After a gruesome public hanging, Lorre is convinced that an innocent man has died, but is less prepared when the murder trail leads towards himself. The contrast of loved music-hall and the repressive nature of Victorian society is powerfully evoked by Robert Day's moody direction
- 4.45 *The Hit Man* and *Her*. Disco news, music and fashions
- 5.20 *ITN Morning News* with Anne Leathers. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 *Comic Book*
- 7.00 *The All England Badminton Championships*. Highlights 8.00 *Trans World Sports*
- 9.00 *News* summary 9.04 *Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line*
- 9.25 *Shogun and Swing*. Performances by jazz stars of the Thirties and Forties (7.30) *Same Difference*. Libby Cross presents the magazine programme on disabled matters (7.30)
- 10.00 *Free For All*. Should water be metered? (7.30)
- 10.30 *Wagon Train* (b/w). First of a new run of the Fifties western series starring Ward Bond, about a wagon train heading for California in the 1890s. With Jane Wymark
- 11.30 *World League American Football*. Highlights of the London Monarchs' opening game against Frankfurt Galaxy in Germany
- 12.20 *The Monsters* (b/w). Vintage American comedy series starring Yvonne de Carlo and Fred Gwynne as the lovable monsters Lily and Herman Munster (7.00)
- 1.00 *Film: My Sister Eileen* (1955). Cheerful comedy-musical starring Janet Leigh and Betty Garrett as sisters who come to New York from Ohio to seek their fortunes as an actress and writer. They rent a basement apartment in Greenwich Village plagued with damp, noisy subway trains and bright street lights, but these trials are minor compared to their disastrous hunt for work. Meeting with failure at every turn, they resolve to return to Ohio when they find romance with Bob Fosse and Jack Lemmon. Directed by Richard Quine
- 3.00 *The Footsteps Echo*. Continuing the five-part series on the religious implications of the Easter story using animation, rock music and opinion from celebrities and the public. There is a portrayal of the last days of an Aids sufferer, with music by the Communards
- 3.30 *Channel 4 Racing* from Kempton Park. John Francombe introduces live coverage of the 3.40, 4.10 and 4.40 races
- 5.05 *Brookside*. Omnibus edition (7.00) (Teletext)
- 6.30 *Short Stories: Brendan's Boys*. Repeated documentary about Brendan's boxing gym on the east side of Sheffield where the majority of the fighters are wayward kids, hustlers and hopefuls. A new series of *Short Stories* starts next week
- 7.00 *The World This Week*. Includes an examination of the power struggle between Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin; and a report on human rights in Morocco. Followed by *Weather*
- Country singer-songwriter Dean Dillon from Nashville (8.00pm)*
- 8.00 *Sound Stuff: Heart On The Line*. CHOICE: A new series of Saturday night music documentaries, catholic enough to take in both Muzak and Django Reinhardt, is launched with a study of the songwriters of Nashville. It was made by the Irish director and cameraman John T. Devine, who vividly captures the style and atmosphere of the Nashville scene. The country singer Vernon O'Connell and his mission to save Uster. Devine's eye for the telling image is much in evidence here as well as his stripes away the glamour of the country music capital to reveal the drab American town underneath. But if the landscape is colourless the songwriters make up for it, starting with the veteran Hank Williams and the young Dean Dillon, who saw himself as a latter-day Hank Williams and his bottle to prove it. For British audiences, particularly those unacquainted with the country music scene, a commentary would have been helpful
- 9.15 *Near Death* (b/w). American documentary: Frederick Wiseman's six-hour documentary, shot in the intensive care unit of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. Wiseman is well-known for his outstanding cinema-verite films observing the day-to-day life of public institutions, and *Near Death* is his most monumental work. Medical technology has created a host of perplexing ethical questions about the role of machines in prolonging the lives of the terminally ill and the film joins doctors as they speak frankly to patients about the reality of death. One 83-year-old man is told, "Your lungs aren't going to get better... the act of putting you on the machine is almost a futile effort," while in another room a nurse holds the hand of a patient as she quietly dies. The film focuses on the sobering experience of four patients, their families and the doctors taking care of them and builds up to a remarkable study of life and death. Ends at 9.40
- NB: the clocks go forward one hour at 1.00am

- World of Guinness Records 2.10 The Life and Times of George Alcock 3.05-4.45 Film: Who's Minding the Store? 11.25 Film: The New Adventures of Pogo 11.30 Fantasy Stars 2.45 America's Top Ten 3.15 Cinema/Action 3.45 America's Top Ten 3.50 Sports 4.00-4.10 References 5.10-5.20 Story Theatre*
- TYNE TEES**
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- NETWORK 2**
Starts: 12.00 Sign of the Times 12.00pm News 12.30 Sports Stadium 5.10 Countdown 5.15-5.20 News 5.20-5.30 News 5.30-5.40 News 5.40-5.50 News 5.50-6.00 News 6.00-6.10 News 6.10-6.20 News 6.20-6.30 News 6.30-6.40 News 6.40-6.50 News 6.50-7.00 News 7.00-7.10 News 7.10-7.20 News 7.20-7.30 News 7.30-7.40 News 7.40-7.50 News 7.50-8.00 News 8.00-8.10 News 8.10-8.20 News 8.20-8.30 News 8.30-8.40 News 8.40-8.50 News 8.50-9.00 News 9.00-9.10 News 9.10-9.20 News 9.20-9.30 News 9.30-9.40 News 9.40-9.50 News 9.50-10.00 News 10.00-10.10 News 10.10-10.20 News 10.20-10.30 News 10.30-10.40 News 10.40-10.50 News 10.50-11.00 News 11.00-11.10 News 11.10-11.20 News 11.20-11.30 News 11.30-11.40 News 11.40-11.50 News 11.50-12.00 News 12.00-12.10 News 12.10-12.20 News 12.20-12.30 News 12.30-12.40 News 12.40-12.50 News 12.50-1.00 News 1.00-1.10 News 1.10-1.20 News 1.20-1.30 News 1.30-1.40 News 1.40-1.50 News 1.50-2.00 News 2.00-2.10 News 2.10-2.20 News 2.20-2.30 News 2.30-2.40 News 2.40-2.50 News 2.50-3.00 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BBC 1

- 9.00 My Name Is Jane. Moving film in which 23-year-old Down's Syndrome sufferer Jane Clark talks about her hopes and ambitions.
- 9.30 Look Stranger. Daffodils, Bulb and Stems. Cornish landscape artist Mary Martin paints throughout the year in the open air. She takes as her inspiration scenes from the parish of St Dominick in the Tamar valley (r).
- 10.00 Christ Is Risen. The Dean of Wells Cathedral, the Very Rev Richard Lewis leads a special Easter service to celebrate the Resurrection.
- 11.00 Urbi et Orbi. Pope John Paul II sends his annual Easter blessing to the world, live from St Peter's Square, Rome.
- 11.30 A Way With Numbers. Maths help for adults with Cerebral Vascular Disease (to 12.30) See You Sunday 11.55 Cerebral.
- 12.05 Sign Extra. A programme from the European series adapted for the hearing impaired.
- 12.30 Country File. John Craven reports on the provision made for deaf people. Despite legislation 20 years ago, only 10% of deaf people have access to sign language. The programme also looks at the hearing impaired.
- 1.00 News 1.05 Tom and Jerry. Cartoon (r) 1.10 High Chaparral Western series (r) 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r). (Coast)
- 3.00 Film: Escape to Victory (1981). Michael Caine, Sylvester Stallone and a team of soccer greats including Pele, Bobby Moore and Claudio Arnesi take to the field in an unlikely second world war match between Allied prisoners and their German captives. For our brave lads, it represents a tantalising chance of escape. Plenty of spectacularly staged football, but not much acting. An extraordinary story for its director, John Huston.
- 4.50 Tom and Jerry Double Bill.
- 5.05 Supergrass. Peter Dinklage introduces the canine composers as they go to the Winston Churchill Trophy. The competition tests obedience, speed and agility of both man and his best friend.
- 5.45 The Clothes Show. Jeff Banks and Caryl Franklin present a special Easter edition from Thornton's chocolate factory in Derbyshire.



Ted Danson and Mary Tyler Moore as the Davis couple (8.15pm)

- 6.15 OK! Talk. Feelings. Continuing the series on dealing with emotions, Sylvia describes her panic attacks while dancers portray her feelings. (Coast)
- 6.25 News with Moira Stewart. Weather.
- 6.40 Songs of Praise from Hereford Cathedral. (Coast)
- 7.15 Bush Strokes. Third edition, well past its sell-by date, starring Karl Howson as an amorous handyman Jacko. The wine has become a bone of contention between Elmo and Lesley, while Veronica decides to sell the paint business so she can concentrate on her impending marriage to Marcello. (Coast)
- 7.45 Butterflies. Carla (Brenda) Lane's perceptive sitcom from the Seventies about Rita Parkinson (Wendy Craig), a bored housewife trapped in her gilded cage. The superbly lugubrious Geoffrey Palmer plays her dentist husband and the show gave an early break to Nicholas Lyndhurst, later to flourish as Rodney in Only Fools and Horses (r).
- 8.15 Film: Just Between Friends (1989). Mary Tyler Moore, Christine Lahti and Ted Danson star in an engaging weepie about suburban wife Holly Davis, who strikes up a friendship with a television news reporter at her aerobics class. What neither woman realises is that the other things they have in common is Holly's husband. The two women are thrown yet closer together however when the adulteress is killed in a car accident and his mistress discovers she is pregnant. Written and directed by Allan Burns. (Coast)
- 10.00 News with Marylin Lewis. (Coast) Weather.
- 10.15 Heart of the Matter: King of the Jews. Joan Bakewell explores what it means to be Jewish and examines how the strands of race, culture and religion combine in the self-identity of Jewishness.
- 10.50 Making Their Mark. Six Artists on Drawing. Artist Mike Wilks describes the function of art as being to "turn the world on its head and discover new ways of seeing by taking a different perspective." His work explores the sometimes surreal recesses of his inner life, revealing an obsessively inventive mind (r).
- 11.20 The Sky at Night: Bombardment from Space. Patrick Moore is joined by the Astronomer Royal, Professor Arnold Wolfendale, for a programme on cosmic rays.
- 11.40 Mahabharat (r) 12.00am Weather.

BBC 2

- 7.30 How Big Is An Elephant? 7.55 Noah's Ark 8.00 Playdays (r) 8.25 Pinocchio 8.45 Corners (r) 9.00 Eggs 'n' Baker presented by Cheryl Baker 9.45 BraveStarr (r) 10.05 Ed The Duck's Guide to Hong Kong (r)
- 10.15 Blue Peter (r) 11.00 Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show (r) 11.25 Lespie (r) 11.45 The C-Zone
- 12.00 Film: Pandora and the Flying Dutchman (1951). Gloriously surreal adventure based on the legend of a sailor who must travel the seas until such time as he finds a woman who will sacrifice her own life for his salvation. The story is updated to the Thirties in a Spanish village where a beautiful American expatriate (Ava Gardner) encounters a ship's captain (James Mason) with a mysterious past. Directed by Robert Lewis.
- 2.00 Yo Yo Mii. A Month in Tangier. Award-winning film that follows the time spent at one of America's leading summer music schools by the Chinese-American artist Yo Yo Mii (r).
- 3.00 Genesis - the Story So Far. Special documentary profiling one of the world's most popular rock bands.
- 4.30 Countryman. The last programme in the series follows the yearly work cycle of Gristedale Farm as the wildlife near John Sneyd (West) and his wife, Deborah, elaborate with appropriate biblical references. Israel, it emerges, is a marvellous place for bird spotting, since it lies on the migration route which for many species starts in Africa and finishes in eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and Scandinavia. April is the time to see the birds and the camera does just that, capturing storks and white pelicans and spectacular black, grey and red herons, swallows and honey buzzards. The helpful commentary is by a veteran of television wildlife documentaries, Barry Paine. (Coast)
- 8.05 Naked Hollywood: One Foot In, One Foot Out. The final programme in the series looks at the contrasting styles of three Hollywood directors: veteran Sydney Pollack, the independent-minded John Schlesinger and the maverick Joe Dante.
- 8.45 How Are The Kids? A film made for the United Nations World Summit on Children which seeks to highlight the problem of infant mortality (r).
- 9.00 Rhythms of the World: Seven Nights in New York. Second part of the documentary featuring the music of New York's immigrant communities.



Edward Fox plays a blackening MIB spy in a scene (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Film: They Never Slept (1991). CHOICE: Postponed from January because of sensitivity about the Gulf, Simon Gray's satirical take on the British spy operation during the second world war. Edward Fox plays a blustering MIB commander who recruits a plucky young corporal (Emily Morgan) to rescue his latest mission against Vichy France. The outcome is not always easy to follow but the ingredients include trenchery, blackmail, suicide and murder as Corporal Pugh takes her wide-eyed innocence into a world where values are somewhat different from those of Chatterton Ladies College. Harriet Walter completes a trio of enjoyably over-the-top performances as an upper-class lady who gives patriotic talks on the wireless. Gray's comic thrusts are set against an authentically reconstructed wartime London, where the posters and the sandbags are part of the fabric and not merely props. (Coast)
- 11.15 Film: Play It Again Sam (1972). Lesser Woody Allen comedy in which he plays a neurotic film critic with severe depression problems who adopts Humphrey Bogart as a role model. Directed by Herbert Ross.
- 12.40am Rapido (r) 1.10 Snub (r). Ends at 1.45.

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am. With, at 8.00, Frost on Sunday, including the interview with General Norman Schwarzkopf which made the headlines this week. Donald Trefl and Carol Thatcher review the newspapers.
- 9.25 The Disney Club. Disney Manages, sister Kyles, is in the studio performing her debut single, "Love and Kisses".
- 10.45 Link. Four different religious leaders are asked about the attitude of their church towards disability.
- 11.00 Morning Worship from the Baptist Tabernacle in Stockton-on-Tees.
- 12.00 Encounter: Man Alive! Father Ian Pelt, a Benedictine monk from York, discusses the impact of a belief in the Resurrection on the lives of Christians today.
- 12.30 The Sounds (r) 12.55 LWT News and weather.
- 1.00 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 1.10 The Day (r).
- 1.15 Film: The Lady Craved Excitement (1950, b/w). Michael Medwin and Hy Hazell star in a film comedy thriller about two cabaret artists who find a plot to smuggle valuable works of art out of the country. Hammer film version of an old radio serial by Edward Mason, directed by Francis Searle.
- 2.30 Film: An Alligator Named Daisy (1955). Donald Sinden stars as a luckless songwriter whose affairs are tangled in turmoil when he mistakenly picks up someone else's suitcase containing an affectionate alligator. Written British comedy, with Diana Dors, James Robertson and Margaret Rutherford. Directed by J. Lee Thompson.
- 4.05 Film: A Man of Two Worlds (1930). Hume Cronyn and Vincent Gardella co-star in a charming made-for-television comedy about the trials of two elderly friends in a nursing home. Directed by Alan Kroeker. (Oracle)
- 6.00 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game with Jim Bowen.
- 6.30 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 6.50 LWT News and weather.
- 6.40 Highway. St Harry Savage visits Harrogate.
- 7.15 Film: Agatha Christie's Murder in Easy (1982). Olivia de Havilland, Bill Bixby and Leslie Ann Down star in this glossy murder mystery about an American computer expert on holiday in England who becomes involved in a string of murders. Directed by Claude Whatham. (Oracle) 8.55 Yo Yo Mii. Live from the studio.
- 9.05 Trouble in Mind. Damp sitcom starring Richard O'Sullivan and Susan Penhaligon. (Oracle)
- 9.35 News with Sue Carpenter. Weather 9.50 LWT Weather.
- 9.55 Sacred Music of Soweto. Bishop Trevor Huddleston introduces a selection of Easter songs from three black choirs from Soweto.
- 10.30 Chatterbox: Heartfield - The Father of Photomontage. CHOICE: Born in Berlin, he anglicised his name to John Heartfield in protest against German nationalism and until the Nazis forced him into exile his savage collages offered a scathing indictment of war, fascism and the corruption of power. His artistic inspiration was the Dada movement and his political home the German communist party. This portrait uses archive material and dramatic reconstruction to evoke the man and his work, representing Heartfield as a sort of alternative historian of 20th century Germany. His pioneering use of photomontage enabled him to get behind surface realism and expose a more sinister, totalitarian reality underneath. No wonder that the Nazis got rid of him. He spent the second world war in Britain, a period on which this film is disappointingly silent. Footage from 1987, the year before his death, reveals him as animated, passionate and transparent.
- 11.30 Film: Breakfast at Tiffany's (1961). Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard star in a sparkling screen version of Truman Capote's novel about a sexy, sophisticated New York City nightclub owner who falls for a young man who lives in an exotic social whirl. Directed by Blake Edwards.
- 1.35 Film: Prudence and the Pill (1989) starring David Niven and Deborah Kerr. Lightweight comedy about the complications that arise after a daughter exchanges her mother's contraceptive pills for aspirin. Directed by John Guillermin and Michael Lindsay-Hogg.
- 3.15 Film: The Great Escape (1963). Much jumping around in furry lincolns, but little else, in this drama of inter-tribal warfare in the Stone Age. Featuring Julie Ege, Brian O'Shaughnessy and Robert John. Directed by Don Chaffey.
- 5.05 Adventure. Video collage of adventurous types.
- 5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00.



John Heartfield's images confront war and fascism (10.30pm)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Trans World Sport (r) 7.00 Euroeka's Castle. First in a new American puppet series for pre-school viewers children 7.30 Dr Snuggles 8.00 A Chuzzlewood Easter 8.30 Bookbooks 9.00 Early Bird. Magazine series made for children for children.
- 9.25 Mithril. Series exploring music from India and Pakistan.
- 10.00 Boom! (r)
- 10.30 Film: The Runaways (1975). Likeable made-for-television family film based on a novel by Victor Canning. Van Williams stars as a young orphan boy escaping from a foster home to befriend a leopard. Directed by Harry Harris.
- 12.00 The Waltons. More adventures with the wholesome country folk 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w) (r).
- 1.55 Fonteyn and Nureyev. Robert Powell narrates a tribute to the late Dame Margot Fonteyn that celebrates her 17-year partnership with Rudolf Nureyev (r).
- 3.55 The Two Lives of William Byrd. A documentary with music about a man who was in the difficult position of being both court composer to the Anglican Elizabeth I, as well as a practising Roman Catholic. The film features the recent discovery that many of Byrd's Latin texts were actually critical of the monarchy, culminated in a performance of four of the great Easter motets from Graduals Book II, sung by the Nonesuch Consort of Voices.
- 4.55 News summary followed by The Footsteps Echo. This concluding episode of the series that looks at the wider implications of the Easter story focuses on hope.
- 5.30 The People's Game. A new six-part series tracing the 2,000 year history of football from ancient China to today.
- 5.45 Gazza's Soccer School. This evening's second new series about football shows Spurs and England star Paul Gascoigne coaching young enthusiasts at Wembley Stadium.
- 6.00 Press Gang. Drama in the newscroom of the Junior Gazette (r).
- 6.30 The Wonder Years. Kevin (Fred Savage) is distressed to realise that he and girlfriend Winnie (Dana Delany) have grown apart in this pleasantly nostalgic American sitcom.
- 7.00 Fragile Earth: Antarctica's Frozen Waste. Return of the environmental series. Andrew Viles looks at pressure group Greenpeace's attempts to carry out a clean-up operation in Antarctica and there is a report on pollution in the Antarctic from the huge McMurdo American military base.
- 8.00 Maestro: Grand Opera and the 19th Century. John Julius Norwich and H.C. Robbins London continue their celebration of the music of Venice, famed entirely on location. There are performances by the King's Consort and the Orchestra and Chorus of La Fenice Opera.



Paul Gascoigne coaches some young enthusiasts (5.45pm)

- 8.00 Incident in Judea. CHOICE: This revisionist version of the Pontius Pilate story has been dramatised from a novel by the Soviet writer Mikhail Bulgakov. The book was written in the Stalin era but not published until the late Sixties. Watching Incident in Judea, one can see why Bulgakov uses the crucifixion to draw explicit parallels with the Stalinist oppression. In this version, Pilate is a party functionary obliged to carry out a death sentence because he lacks the courage to defy his ultimate master. The most subversive act committed by Bulgakov's Jesus figure, here called Yeshua, is to echo Lenin's prediction that once the revolution has been established the state will wither away. Under Stalin the opposite happened. A stylish production by Paul Bryers, who wrote the script with Mark Rogers, features John Woodvine as a troubled Pilate, with Mark Rylands as Christ, suffering a bloody death during a thunderstorm.
- 10.15 Elegy: For Those Who Died in the Gulf War. Actor John Bett reads from Harish Handerson's Elegies for the Dead in Cynanica.
- 10.20 Film: To Be or Not to Be (1943). First network showing for Mal Brooks' remake of the 1942 Ernst Lubitsch comedy about a Polish theatre group trying to outwit the Nazis in occupied Warsaw. Brooks casts himself and wife Anne Bancroft in the lead roles and alters the story to suit his own brand of less-than-delicate humour. This new version is enjoyable enough but its comfortable charm is achieved at the expense of the sharp cutting edge of the original. Directed by Alan Johnson.
- 12.20am After Dark. An open-ended discussion on miracles, presented by Tony Wilson. Among the guests is Professor Edward Hall, the scientist who carbon-dated the Turin shroud.

TV VARIATIONS

- 12.00 1 Spz 1.45 Furry Fun 2.15 Film: Dumbo 4.10 The ITV Chart Show 5.00-5.30 The 100th Anniversary
- ANGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Ferringi Day 1.10-1.45 Film: South Pacific 1.50-2.00 The New Avengers 2.25-2.30 Soap 2.35-2.40 Omnibus Edition 2.45-3.00 Film: Michael 3.10-3.15 The 100th Anniversary 3.20-3.25 The 100th Anniversary 3.30-3.35 The 100th Anniversary
- BORDER
As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Gendarmen Time 1.10-1.15 The Life and Times of Gendarmen 2.05-2.10 Film: The Plague 2.15-2.20 Film: The Plague 2.25-2.30 Film: The Plague 2.35-2.40 Film: The Plague 2.45-2.50 Film: The Plague 2.55-3.00 Film: The Plague 3.05-3.10 Film: The Plague 3.15-3.20 Film: The Plague 3.25-3.30 Film: The Plague 3.35-3.40 Film: The Plague 3.45-3.50 Film: The Plague 3.55-4.00 Film: The Plague 4.05-4.10 Film: The Plague 4.15-4.20 Film: The Plague 4.25-4.30 Film: The Plague 4.35-4.40 Film: The Plague 4.45-4.50 Film: The Plague 4.55-5.00 Film: The Plague 5.05-5.10 Film: The Plague 5.15-5.20 Film: The Plague 5.25-5.30 Film: The Plague 5.35-5.40 Film: The Plague 5.45-5.50 Film: The Plague 5.55-6.00 Film: The Plague 6.05-6.10 Film: The Plague 6.15-6.20 Film: The Plague 6.25-6.30 Film: The Plague 6.35-6.40 Film: The Plague 6.45-6.50 Film: The Plague 6.55-7.00 Film: The Plague 7.05-7.10 Film: The Plague 7.15-7.20 Film: The Plague 7.25-7.30 Film: The Plague 7.35-7.40 Film: The 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Travel advice leads drivers into jams

By DAVID YOUNG AND ADAM FRESCO

EASTER holidaymakers who heeded advice from the police and motoring organisations to delay their journeys to avoid the peak period found it did them little good yesterday. The sheer number of late starters merely meant that roads clogged up a few hours later than usual.

AA Roadwatch said: "A lot of people decided to leave it until mid to late morning to set off. They were tempted out by a quiet start to the day."

A lorry driver and a pedestrian were killed in an accident which led to the closure of the M56 in Greater Manchester early yesterday. A police spokesman said that the lorry overturned after hitting a pedestrian on the eastbound carriageway at Sharston, Wythenshawe.

Heavy traffic brought the M25 to a standstill in both

directions between the junctions for the M4 and M40 and traffic on the M1 northbound moved at a crawl in Hertfordshire. Another accident occurred at junction 13 of the M25 at Wraybury, Berkshire, where an articulated lorry crashed through a barrier and fell on to a sliproad. Three other cars were involved and police reported that the southbound carriageway had been closed, causing long tailbacks.

There was a three-mile tailback heading south at the Dartford tunnel and in the Midlands, traffic on the M6 near Birmingham was slow and heavy in both directions. Salisbury General Infirmary in Wiltshire saw a rush of people suffering from injuries caused by minor road accidents.

A police spokesman said: "The hospital just cannot take

any more people because they have not got any beds left. The reason there have been so many accidents is because holidaymakers get impatient standing in traffic - luckily most of the accidents have been minor."

Day-trippers heading for Blackpool were delayed in a six-mile queue from the M6 to the M55 link. The A11 and A45 into Suffolk and Norfolk were also slow because of the weight of traffic and in the West Country the A303 near Stonehenge, Wiltshire, was congested.

Construction teams slowed traffic down on the A1 in Lincolnshire, where they were carrying out work on the Grantham by-pass. A similar problem caused delays in West Yorkshire.

In Scotland congestion was reported on the A82, one of the main routes to the Highlands, on the stretch that runs alongside Loch Lomond. Roads out of Edinburgh, and approaching the Forth Road Bridge, were also clogged. The main A74 Carlisle-Glasgow route was busy with northbound English holiday traffic. However, no snarl-ups in Britain came close to rivaling traffic queues between Hanover and Berlin in Germany, which stretched for up to 55 miles.

Heathrow handled 100,000 departing passengers yesterday - slightly fewer than on Thursday - and Gatwick dealt with 30,000, 50 per cent above a normal day.

The London weather centre said temperatures would be near average for the whole of the country today and tomorrow. A mixture of cloud and sunshine is expected in the south but in the north it will be more overcast with rain.

Some rail passengers face longer journeys because Waterloo station in London is virtually closed over Easter, while signalling work under way at the time of the Clapham disaster is finished. Train travellers also face delays in the Midlands as work continues to repair a main line north of Lichfield, Staffordshire, damaged in a goods train derailment.

After the news... the Good News

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE word of God, or at least an invitation to come to church to hear it, was delivered not by a peal of bells but by radio commercials yesterday - somewhere between the advertisements for a new car and a new carpet.

The Church of England, taking advantage of the new broadcasting act which allows religious groups to advertise, got off to an optimistic start with a soft-sell campaign in the dioceses of Lichfield, the country's largest, and Oxford. The Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, said that if the advertisements encouraged one more person to come to church this Easter, then it would all have been worthwhile.

The advertisement was devised by GRF Christian Radio in Glasgow at an undisclosed cost. Listeners heard them on the Oxford commercial station Fox FM while the aptly named Becon Radio spread the word in

Lichfield. Two children discuss what goes on beyond the lychgate: They get down on their knees.

You're kidding. No, I'm not. They do. Well, they must be getting paid for it then.

No. There's no money in it. Well, then someone's forcing them to go.

No, no-one's forcing them. I've got it. It's just a habit. No, it's not that either.

So why do they go to church then? I'm not sure, but I think there's something they're not telling us.

A male voice adds: "This Easter the Church of England in your area would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family." The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Rev Keith Sutton, said: "It's responsible advertising can help communicate the good news of the Christian faith with an emphasis on the local church, then I am going to rejoice."



Boy soldier: Prince Harry and his father watching the 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkhas exercise on Salisbury Plain yesterday. The Prince of Wales is Colonel-in-Chief

Yeltsin stakes claim to power in new union

By MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, the leader of the Russian Federation, yesterday claimed his share of power in a new style of Soviet Union but retreated from his earlier confrontational stance to propose an all-party coalition to tackle the country's problems. He was also forced, by a determined Communist offensive, to dilute his plan for a directly elected Russian president.

Speaking a day after an estimated 200,000 Muscovites defied a big show of military and police force to demonstrate their support for him, Mr Yeltsin yesterday delivered the main address at the Russian Congress of People's Deputies which opened on Thursday.

Deputies from the Communist party and the conservative "Russia" faction combined to block any discussion of the post of a Russian president and will probably ensure that the congress, scheduled to end on Tuesday, can take no serious decisions.

This political stalemate in the congress might be one reason for Mr Yeltsin's decision to take no risks in his speech. He appeared even to back down from some of his more belligerent recent statements, saying that he had made mistakes and that he wanted an end to confrontation with the centre.

Although Mr Yeltsin's mooted coalition government is not new, since he first proposed it last summer, he yesterday gave more details of how it should be constituted and sought the backing of the congress to strengthen his hand. "There must be a decisive change in the system of power in the republic and at the centre," he said. "Today's political structure cannot guarantee the implementation of an anti-crisis programme." What was needed was a broad democratic coalition to include all political parties and workers' and social movements.

He called on the centre to renounce the use of force and sought a "real separation of powers" between party and

government, and between the legislative, executive and judicial branches of the administration.

Mr Yeltsin's speech disappointed many delegates and members of the public who heard it live on the radio. They said it offered few new ideas for giving the Russian Federation and its government real power compared with the centre. The speech also lacked much of the fire of others Mr Yeltsin has made at recent political meetings. Some people pointed out, however, that the speech was that of a national leader.

Mr Yeltsin did not renew his call for President Gorbachev's resignation, but seemed almost to write him off. "We have not been living through perestroika, but in the last phase of stagnation," he said.

Ukraine exit, page 9

I'm sorry, general tells Bush

Continued from page 1 Saddam's forces overran the town with tanks, missiles and heavy artillery. In the north, Kurds were said to have retreated from Kirkuk, but were planning a new drive to regain the city. Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, appealed to the world to act quickly "to stop the dictator from annihilating our people".

However, with tens of thousands of government forces redeployed to fight the Kurds, there were signs that the Shia rebellion in the south had taken on new life. Allied military sources expected the rebellion to drag on for months as the depleted Iraqi army was moved from one end of the country to the other. One American official said: "It's like the kid trying to plug three holes in the dam with two fingers. When he moves one, another opens."

Lawson quits bank to finish book

NIGEL Lawson is to give up his job with the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank, where he works two days a week (Ross Tisman writes). The former Chancellor wants to spend more time working on his book, the bank said. Mr Lawson hopes to publish his book after the next general election, and the signs of urgency may be seen in

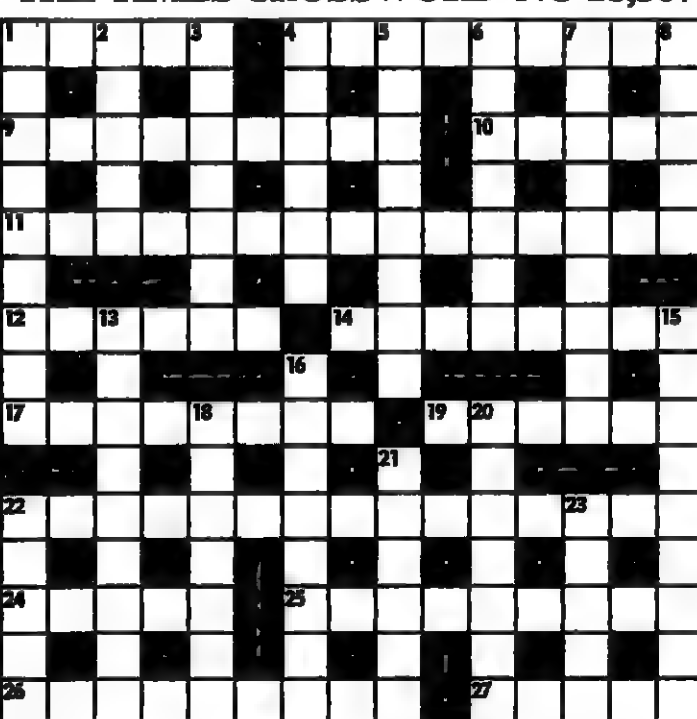
some quarters as an indication that he expects the next election to take place as early as June.

Although Mr Lawson remains a non-executive director of Barclays Bank and Barclays plc, its parent holding company, he is likely to face a considerable drop in salary. When he was appointed to the Barclays board

on February 1 last year, there was speculation that he would earn £100,000 a year. The bank's non-executive employees earn little more than £30,000 a year.

The MP would have earned most of his salary for his advisory work at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the bank's investment banking and securities business.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,567



- ACROSS**
- 1 A doctor is about to see feet (5)
 - 2 So-called style of house (5)
 - 3 Copper wire's not untidy when sheathed (9)
 - 4 One receiving social benefit in small measure is right to hold on (6)
 - 5 Old ruler calls boy up (8)
 - 6 Argument over some muslim (7)
 - 7 Legendary murderer with dirty hair (9)
 - 8 Guard failing to open gate (5)
 - 9 Way of handling meat that's rotten - put it in the river (9)
 - 10 Newspaper excluding esoteric subject (9)
 - 11 Brief in a hard case like this (8)
 - 12 Hearing the sound of surf from Sydney beach, I dropped out with husband (7)
 - 13 Cause surprise in the matter of a German connection (7)
 - 14 Sank like shrimp, maybe (6)
 - 15 Take one step off the track (5)
 - 16 Map-makers' alias for Japanese city (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Officer at first governing normally (2, 7)
 - 2 Concise and Easter Jumbo Crosswords, page 15

Solution to Puzzle No 18,561

DOWN: 1. OFFICER, 2. CONCISE, 3. EASTER, 4. JUMBO, 5. CROSSWORDS, 6. PAGE, 7. 15.

Solution to Puzzle No 18,566

ACROSS: 1. FEET, 2. HOUSE, 3. SHEATHED, 4. HOLD ON, 5. BOY, 6. MUSLIM, 7. MURDERER, 8. GUARD, 9. ROTTEN, 10. NEWSPAPER, 11. BRIEF, 12. HEARING, 13. CAUSE, 14. SANK, 15. TAKE, 16. MAP-MAKERS.

PRIZE A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address: _____

By Philip Howard

- ORTHOPHY**
- a. Bird-watching
 - b. Fessing about trivialities
 - c. Correct pronunciation
- ACEPHALOUS**
- a. An unheaded syllable
 - b. Headless
 - c. Sister of Bacchante
- DACTYLOGRAM**
- a. Manuscript
 - b. A fingerprint
 - c. Pigeon post
- FULSTRIUM**
- a. A richer pleasure
 - b. Unsurpassed coarse rum
 - c. A decapitated cone

Answers on page 13

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0998 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex 702
Dorset, Here & IOW 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wilt, Glouce, Avon, Some 705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon 706
Beds, Herts & Essex 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent 709
Shrops, Herefords & Worcs 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincoln & Humberside 713
Dyfed & Powys 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
N.W. England 716
W & S Yorks & Wales 717
N.E. England 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
N.W. Scotland 720
W. Central Scotland 721
Edin & Fife/Highlands 722
E. Central Scotland 723
Grampian & E. Highlands 724
N.W. Scotland 725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland 726
N. Ireland 727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0538 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C. London (within N & S Circles) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford 733
M-ways/roads Dartford-T4-M25 734
M-ways/roads M25-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

TO DAY
London 6.30 pm to 6.40 am
Bristol 6.30 pm to 6.40 am
Edinburgh 7.40 pm to 6.40 am
Manchester 6.40 pm to 6.40 am
Penzance 6.30 pm to 6.40 am

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: J C Cowling, Windermere Court, Windermere Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex; W J Penn, Archery Fields House, Wharton Street, London; J V Jones, Hafod Lon, Rhiwlas, Nr Bangor, Gwynedd; P W Hill, Wood Lane, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham; J A Read, Hamilton Road, Walthamstow, London.

WEATHER

England and north Wales will have a cloudy day with some rain, dying out later. Brighter in Northern Scotland. South Wales and southern England will stay dry with some sunshine in southeast England. Outlook: becoming unsettled with some rain in north but dry in south until Monday.

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-26
● WEEKEND MONEY 27-32
● SPORT 33-38

BUSINESS

SATURDAY MARCH 30 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

MONEY

Budget deadlines approach

March 31: Last chance to make purchases while VAT is still charged at 15 per cent. From Monday the new rate is 17.5 per cent. The lower rate will also be paid on services, whenever they are received, so long as they are invoiced before April 1.

April 5: The capital gains tax annual exemption limit is raised to £5,500 from next Saturday. Investors should make sure they have used their 1990-1 limit of £5,000 before then. Employees provided with mobile telephones also have until then to make all their personal calls tax-free.

Some investors who have taken out personal equity plans (PEPs) this week to beat the tax year-end deadline will still have to pay VAT. Page 27

Chocs away



Dominic Cadbury is the last in his line to run Cadbury Schweppes. But he is not a family business and his name did not help him to the top. Page 25

Rates on hold

While bank and building society lending rates are falling, those for credit cards and personal loans remain as high as they did when base rates reached 15 per cent. Page 27

Care scheme

A new scheme to help elderly people pay for long stay care in nursing homes was launched this week by Eagle Star. Others are on the way. Page 28

Swap losses

People hoping to save money on estate agents fees are facing losses as property exchange agencies go under. Page 29

Spring rush

Spring sunshine has brought a rush of mortgage offers, including a fixed rate 2.75 per cent lower than the new standard mortgage rates that come into force on Monday. Page 29

HK trusts top

Funds investing in Hong Kong top the unit trust tables for one year. What is their future under Chinese rule? Page 29

Your letters



When banks return to providing a service in return for holding our money customers will fall into the modern business practices they want us to adopt, says one reader. The debate on whether the Nationwide mortgage offer to new borrowers is fair to existing customers continues and the way annuities are calculated is questioned. Page 30

Scottish sale

The Scottish power flotations require a separate registration from their English counterparts. The deadline will be announced soon, along with the benefits. Page 30

Japanese lose top positions in Eurobond market

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Japanese dominance of the Eurobond markets was shattered in the first quarter of this year as Tokyo securities houses lost their lead in the Eurobond tables to the Americans and Europeans.

The value of Eurobond issues soared 66 per cent to \$74.4 billion, partly compensating for a plunge of more than half in the European syndicated loan market.

Nomura, the world's largest securities house, fell from top place to third in the league table of Eurobond lead managers for the first time in several years, according to figures compiled by Euromoney Bondware, the capital market information service. Nomura was overtaken by Morgan Stanley, up from 18th place.

The fall was related to the slump in the Tokyo stock market last year, which has

made it almost impossible to launch equity warrants attached to bonds. Nomura completed issues worth \$6.02 billion in the three months, against Morgan Stanley's total of \$7.09 billion.

Other Japanese securities firms suffered similarly. Daiwa slipped from fourth to sixth place, Nikko from seventh to tenth and Yamaichi from tenth to eleventh.

European currency issues dominated the quarter. Total ecu issues almost quadrupled from \$4.4 billion to \$16.1 billion, helping Paribas, the French bank, which dominates the ecu bond market, rise to second place as it lead-managed issues worth \$6.46 billion.

The surge in issues helped to compensate for a plunge in the loan syndication market. The total of syndicated loans fell 32 per cent to \$59.3 billion. This confirms City reports that many syndicated loans

are difficult or impossible to complete and that interest margins are widening to tempt banks back into the market.

The British loan market was particularly badly hit. The amount raised by British companies fell by 88 per cent to \$2.91 billion in the first quarter, down from \$23.8 billion in the same period last year.

American banks continue to lead the syndication business, with Chemical Bank, Citicorp and Bank of America at the top.

Meanwhile, merger activity recovered sharply in Britain in the first quarter despite the recession. The worldwide volume of completed deals, according to a survey by Securities Data Company, an American group, fell by 27 per cent to \$70.4 billion as the number of deals fell from 2,114 to 1,715.

The value of completed British bids surged 58 per cent to \$25.7 billion although

the number of transactions fell by 122 to 266. Securities Data's figures were boosted by the dollar's weakness in the period.

The resurgence in British activity, however, shows that companies are taking advantage of low asset prices to look for buys. Merger activity is expected to increase further this year as companies commit the funds raised from rights issues.

The sharp downturn in world activity was mainly caused by a plunge in American business. There the value of transactions fell 57 per cent to \$23.2 billion. Continental European merger volumes were healthy, particularly in the cross-border stake-buying sector.

The largest deal of the quarter was the \$7.46 billion merger of Nationale-Nederlanden and NMB Postbank, the Dutch insurance company and bank.

The slump in American business means

British merchant banks are well placed in the global mergers and acquisitions league. Goldman Sachs, which completed 25 deals worth \$8 billion, leads but the next three places are filled by British institutions: Lazard Partners, Schroders and SG Warburg, which advised on 52 transactions.

Lazard Partners also topped the league of cross-border business, completing nine deals worth \$10.9 billion. This confirms its pre-eminence in cross-border work, helped by the Lazard Freres firms in Paris and New York.

Domestic merchant banks continue to dominate the British M&A field. Kleinwort Benson topped the league table, with three deals worth \$4.2 billion. The bank moved into top position due to its flotation of National Power and PowerGen. It was followed by Warburg and Schroders.

Halifax sets debt collectors on defaulters

By LINDSAY COOK AND BARBARA ELLIS

THE Halifax, Britain's biggest building society, is taking tough action against mortgage defaulters who have handed in their keys because their homes are worth less than outstanding loans.

The society is using a debt collection agency to locate people who have surrendered properties after their value fell below that of the outstanding mortgage.

Legal actions are planned against a number of former borrowers for losses that the society has incurred on repossessed properties.

Halifax says: "We draw the distinction between those who can't pay and those who can pay but won't pay. Those who have handed in keys and walked away from the commitment are being actively pursued."

Other lenders have already taken action against borrowers who have walked away from losses. The Woolwich has already sued some former borrowers and members of the Council of Mortgage Lenders are swapping information on people who default on mortgages.

They want to make sure that people cannot walk easily away from a loss and buy another property with a mortgage from another lender.

In most cases, the borrower could also be pursued through the courts by the insurance companies that provided indemnity policies on their loans.

Jim Birrell, the chief executive of the Halifax, said: "In

cases of a court order for possession or voluntary surrender of the mortgage property if a loss is sustained, the Halifax will take legal action for recovery of the loss under the personal covenant where it is considered people can pay."

"This will not be considered, however, where real hardship would be involved, or in cases involving long-term illness, or if the situation was caused by circumstances beyond the borrower's control, such as redundancy."

"We do not consider it is fair that investors and other borrowers who are keeping up payments should subsidise losses on possessions in the circumstances outlined."

The society has not had to sue former borrowers in the past because the value of homes had usually remained higher than the mortgage, plus any arrears and costs. A spokesman said that the numbers involved were small.

The fall in property values since the summer of 1988 - by as much as 20 per cent in the Southeast and East Angles - has encouraged a small number of borrowers to surrender their properties rather than continue paying. In some cases, they have returned to rented accommodation but others have bought further properties.

Frank Bartlett, the head of lending services at the Woolwich, said: "A small number have been sued so far. We are looking to pursue those cases as and when losses are crystallised."

It is only when the properties taken into possession

are sold that the lender can work out the deficit and take proceedings against the borrower. There was a dramatic increase in the number of properties repossessed in the last few months of last year. Many of these will not yet have been sold.

Mr Bartlett continued: "Lenders are looking to take a firmer line now. In the past, they might have shrugged their shoulders about a loss."

About half the properties that are taken into possession involve the voluntary handing over of keys.

However, Mark Boleat, the director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, reported last year that it was possible to have a possession without arrears.

He said: "The owner has no equity and wants to move and decides to throw in the keys. It does not happen very often. We would not pursue if there was no point in doing so. But we would if they have taken advantage of market conditions and have bought a property as an investment that has not worked out, or if they are looking to buy another property."

Ian Darby, the marketing director of John Charcol, a mortgage broker, said that the insurance companies offering indemnity policies were also suffering as 1,000 homes a week were being repossessed.

He said: "Premiums will have to increase and they will choose to pursue borrowers eventually."

Comment, page 27
Easter hopes, page 29



Raising the stakes: Martin Edwards, chief executive, whose diluted holding may be worth £10m after flotation

Flotation is still Man Utd's goal

By MARTIN BARROW

MANCHESTER United is pressing ahead with plans for a stock market listing before the end of the football season, despite the uncertainty surrounding the future of Tottenham Hotspur plc, its quoted first division rival.

Advisers have been appointed and the likely date for a public offering is the end of next month. Professor Roland Smith, the Manchester-born chairman of British Aerospace, is expected to be named non-executive chairman.

United has been encouraged to press on with the flotation by ideal market conditions and the club's good showing in the domestic Rumbelows Cup and the European Cup Win-

ners' Cup, which has boosted attendances and substantially increased revenue from advertising and television.

Success on the pitch has guaranteed that United will reverse last season's pre-tax loss of £3.1 million, which included a transfer deficit of £5.2 million. Because of the proximity of the flotation to the club's July year-end, there is likely to be a forecast promising profits of between £3.5 million and £4 million.

The European semi-final is expected to generate revenues of £1 million.

Henry Ansbacher, United's merchant bank, is retained as financial adviser, despite its role in the controversial events of less than two years ago, when the businessman

Michael Knighton attempted to buy control of the club from Martin Edwards, chief executive, and his family. Mr Knighton was forced to abandon the bid after several weeks of wrangling. United's stockbrokers are Smith New Court and the provincial firms of Wise Speke and Charlton Seal.

United emphasises that the principal reason for obtaining a listing is to raise about £6 million towards the redevelopment of the Stretford end of Old Trafford, the football ground.

However, the flotation will also enable Mr Edwards, who will become full-time chief executive, to unlock some of his investment in the club, although advisers are reluctant to say how much money

he will raise. His stake is expected to be diluted from 51 to 20-25 per cent, leaving the board with less than 40 per cent. The intention is to split remaining shares evenly between institutions and small shareholders. With an estimated capitalisation of between £35 million and £40 million, Mr Edwards' reduced stake could still be worth up to £10 million.

With the spotlight firmly on the problems at Tottenham, United's balance sheet and corporate aims will be under scrutiny. The club expects to come to the market free of debt, unlike Tottenham, and will pledge not to diversify beyond its core business of football and Old Trafford's sizeable support services.

Index jump fuels optimism in US

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE US Commerce Department's index of leading indicators rose 1.1 per cent in February, the first monthly increase in eight months, adding to post-Gulf optimism about an early end to the recession.

The increase, which followed a fall of 0.5 per cent in January, largely reflected rising share prices, which accounted for over half the improvement. Increases in money supply, construction permits and consumer expectations also boosted the index.

The successful military offensive in the Gulf sent Wall

Street higher and restored consumer confidence in America to a greater extent than in Europe. But economists are wary about reading too much into jumps in the index, which has signalled false dawns in the past.

The dollar clawed back some of its overnight losses against the mark in New York to close at DM1.6965 in thin trading, having fallen sharply on Thursday after touching DM1.72 in Europe, a one-year high. In New York, the pound closed at \$1.7510, compared with its close in London of \$1.7365 on Thursday.

Heathrow dispute still unresolved

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

WITH five days to go before United Airlines is due to begin services to Heathrow in place of Pan Am, there was still no formal agreement last night over the timing of its take-off and landing slots.

Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin Atlantic, was in regular negotiations aimed at ensuring that his airline - which was offered only a fraction of the number of slots he had sought - could also fly across the Atlantic from the crowded airport.

"I do not think it will be resolved until Tuesday" he said. "I am reasonably con-

fident that we will be able to reach a satisfactory conclusion that will not disrupt the plans of the travelling public."

United, which plans to land early on Thursday morning after an overnight flight from Washington, would not comment on the wrangle that has led to threats of court action and demands for a change in the method of distributing slots among competing airlines. Although a compromise is likely to be reached, the future of the airlines' scheduling committee is in doubt.

Airline roller-coaster, page 24

America to name Saddam fronts

By ANGELA MACKAY

BRITISH companies being investigated by a financial detective agency seeking Saddam Hussein's network of global investments can be divided into three intersecting groups established over the past six years.

One can be traced directly to Al-Arabi Trading, a Baghdad holding company. The other two were involved in producing machine parts and tools for manufacturing weapons or front companies for middle-men who put the Saddam regime in touch with arms makers.

Kroll, the Wall Street investigators, have identified 32 British companies involved in Saddam's investment strategy. The firm, hired by the Kuwaiti government to track Saddam's allegedly illicit investments, said the dictator and his family had skimmed at least \$1 billion off government deals. However, Jawad Hashim, a former Iraqi planning

minister, suggested yesterday in *The Times* that Saddam could have gained as much as \$33 billion from these activities.

Building on Kroll's findings, the Office of Foreign Asset Control, an arm of the US Treasury, will publish on Monday a list of more than 100 companies that have acted as fronts for Saddam. A US Treasury spokeswoman said the authorities would move to freeze the companies' assets and block bank accounts.

One of the main figures in the British network of companies, Anees Mansour Wadi, had his American assets frozen last week. Some British companies involved - Matrix Churchill, in Britain and America, and Newcast Foundations - have been sold to non-Iraqi interests recently. Others have been dissolved, such as Admincheck, run by Mr Wadi and Roy Ricks, his associate. Most of the people involved in the complicated network have disappeared. Some,

however, have been arrested for illegal export of nuclear triggers.

The Al-Arabi group of companies included Matrix Churchill and Newcast, along with Technology & Development Group, TMG Engineering and Euro-sabre. The main characters involved are Dr Safa Al-Habobi, the former head of Nassr State Enterprise, Iraq's biggest procurement agency, Hana Paul Jon, Adnan Al-Amiri, Robert Kambar Khoshaba and Dr Fadel Jawad Kadhum.

This group overlaps those involved in Meed International, Caldecott Ltd in the Channel Islands, Advanced Electronics Developments, Admincheck, TEG Ltd, RWR International and RWR International Commodities, IPC International, Investcast Precision Castings Ltd, Arch Ice Ltd, and Bercoe Engineering. The two directors named repeatedly in Companies House are Mr Ricks and Mr Wadi who dealt with Mr Al-Habobi.

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Attwoods will buy Mears

By JONATHAN PAXTON

ATTWOODS, the waste management group, is to strengthen its position in the sand and gravel market in the south of England through a purchase worth £20.3 million, funded by an issue of American depository receipts (ADRs) to American investors.

The acquisition of Ebenezer Mears, a private mineral extractor, which also owns three solid waste landfill sites, is being carried out through an option to purchase the share capital. The option will be exercised next month.

This arrangement gives Attwoods time to complete the Securities and Exchange Commission filing required for the ADR issue before announcing the deal.

Mears made pre-tax profits of £1.1 million in 1989. Unaudited pre-tax profits for the ten months to the end of last October were £500,000.

The ADR issue will increase the American shareholding in Attwoods from about 15 to about 23 per cent. The ADRs represent 18.4 million ordinary shares.

The company also plans to move its American quotation from Nasdaq to the New York Stock Exchange.

THE ECONOMY

US dollar
1.7510 (New York)
German mark
2.9660 (-0.0002)
Exchange index
92.4 (+0.2)

FT 30 Share
1953.9 (-12.0)
FT-SE 100
2456.5 (-8.1)
New York Dow Jones
2913.86 (-3.71)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
26292.04 (+85.12)
* Thursday's closes

Who can survive the airline roller-coaster?

From its state of euphoria of three years ago, the aviation world is now plumbing the depths. Harvey Elliott reports



Dead of night: Air Europe will not see the next dawn break on the airline business

THE unending roller-coaster ride from good times to bad, to which the world's airlines are strapped, is once more running full tilt downhill.

Even in the best of times, such as the boom year of 1988, the combined profits of the 200 main airlines were less than \$1.6 billion, a net return on revenue of just 2 per cent.

In any other industry this would be regarded as scant return. For the airlines, however, it triggered a huge buying spree, with orders placed for 1,600 new jets.

Now, all that euphoria has disappeared. The effects of the Gulf war brought overnight catastrophe to an industry already suffering more than most from crippling interest rates and the world recession. Once the allies moved in on Iraq, seat sales nosedived. The number of Japanese travelling to Europe fell by 73 per cent in the first few weeks, while trans-Atlantic travel slumped by 30 per cent.

All of which has left more than 800 modern aircraft seeking a home in the rapidly contracting market. Airlines which seemed secure only six months ago have either been forced out of business or are struggling to cut costs. Just to fund interest payments on the jets they had bought required high cash flow.

Banks, who had been willing to fund the expansion plans of most carriers, suddenly began asking when they

were going to be repaid. For Air Europe, among others, it became too much and they were forced out of business.

In the midst of this gloom the British government decided to open up Heathrow, allowing two of the three remaining strong US carriers, plus Virgin Atlantic, to compete with British Airways.

In Europe, politicians push to abolish duty free sales worth \$700 million a year to the airlines, impose VAT on air fares, increase security costs and ensure that any new-comer, however small, can fly in direct competition on the few profitable routes.

So loud have been the squeals from the industry that pressure is now building for a complete review of Britain's commercial aviation policy.

In competition, with everyone making bigger and bigger losses, really the way to provide the travelling public with

the best possible service? Does it make sense for Heathrow to be kept as the main London airport while Gatwick degenerates into a "bucket and spade" charter base? Should Stansted receive the support necessary to prevent its becoming a costly white elephant?

Such questions need to be addressed urgently. Until they are the industry can only clutch at the few straws that suggest the roller-coaster may soon begin to climb again.

Dan Air, for example, which came within 12 hours of becoming bankrupt at the end of last year, is now emerging as a significant force at Gatwick and is pressing the government to give it all the abandoned Air Europe routes.

Virgin Atlantic, which has fought a spirited battle for access to Heathrow airport, is refusing to be tempted into a too rapid expansion.

British Midland is increasing its importance as a feeder airline for international carriers flying into Heathrow.

British Airways is dropping costly aircraft, such as the TriStar, and dropping uneconomic services.

British charter airlines that remain after the collapse of Air Europe are now virtually guaranteed high loads as supply almost exactly matches demand.

None of this will mean anything, however, unless scheduled passengers begin booking seats again, and in very large numbers.

Few observers doubt that the upheavals of recent months will result in only a few big international airlines remaining backed up by small "niche" carriers.

The question is, which of today's dwindling number will be there tomorrow.

Get staff ready for Europe, says CBI

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH companies should make more effort to familiarise themselves and their employees with the differing customs of European Community countries before sending people to work there, the Confederation of British Industry says today.

Many British companies are doing a good job in adjusting their employees to working, or even fully relocating, in other parts of Europe, says the CBI, but, with the completion of the single market looming at the end of 1992, more will have to be done.

Sue Shortland, head of the CBI's employee relocation group, said: "Training employees about different customs has been a part of corporate strategy for many years, particularly for those who are going to work in the Middle East or Far East."

"Less attention has been paid to the cultural differences in Europe. Working in Spain or Italy for example can be quite different from working in the UK."

As an example, the CBI says that when an Englishman touches his thumb with his forefinger in the shape of an O, it means "OK". If he makes the same gesture to a man in Japan it means "money". A Frenchman would interpret it as "it's free", and the message he would convey to a Tunisian is: "I want to kill you."

The CBI says that language training is of key importance for employees and companies living and working outside of the UK. But there are also difficulties for expatriates who do not know the property markets overseas, or in companies not being innovative enough in the packages they offer to relocate employees.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Antares share issue to raise £815,000

ANTARES, the fuel distribution and engineering group formerly known as United Guarantee, is to raise about £815,000 net by issuing 92.5 million ordinary shares at 1p each. Barry Giddings, chairman, said raising new equity was "a matter of some urgency". The shares fell from 24p to 14p.

The shares have been conditionally placed by Hambros Bank and Williams de Broet, the broker. The placing, subject to shareholders' approval, was launched after a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million for the second successive year. Extraordinary losses on the sale of American oil and gas interests increased this to £1.9 million. The continuing losses have reduced net assets from £2.4 million at end-1989 to just £105,000 at the end of last year. There is again no dividend. Without the placing Mr Giddings says the company would have little choice but to cease trading.

Profits halve at Plasmec

PLASMEC, the diversified manufacturer, announced a 52 per cent slump in pre-tax profits from £664,220 to £317,575 for the year to end-December. Sales rose 7.3 per cent to £11.24 million (£10.48 million) but operating costs rose 13 per cent, leaving operating profits at £554,979 (£1.02 million). A final dividend of 1.8p makes a total of 3.6p (5p).

Investment firm dips

MURRAY Ventures, the equity investment arm of Murray Johnstone, reports a negative return on net assets of 17.8 per cent for the six months to end-January. The negative return on the FTA All-Share index was 7.5 per cent. Net asset value was 272.2p (366.2p). Pre-tax revenue was £1.72 million (£1.77 million). The interim dividend is 3.4p (3.25p).

Gibbs and Dandy hit

BAD debts and interest charges have produced a first pre-tax loss for Gibbs and Dandy, the Luton builders' merchant. A deficit of £422,000 for the year to end-December compares with a pre-tax profit of £172,000 for 1989. Turnover increased 5.6 per cent to £26.1 million and gross profits by 8.8 per cent to £6.6 million, but operating expenses rose £1 million, including an increase in bad debts of £400,000.

The high level of borrowings and interest rates caused a rise in the interest charge from £509,000 to £647,000. John Dandy, the chairman, gave a warning that the recession in construction "has not bottomed out and this year may prove even more difficult than 1990". There is no interim or final dividend, compared with a 2p payout last year.

Bilston down to £336,000

BILSTON & Battersea Enamels, manufacturer of hand-painted decorative products, reported taxable profits down from £565,000 to £336,000 last year on static turnover of £4.83 million after a sharp decline in demand in the final quarter. Earnings per share fell to 5.1p (8.6p). The total dividend is reduced to 3p a share (4.75p) with a 1.25p final.

Growth slows for Breedon

BREEDON, the quarrying and housebuilding company that showed profits growth of 21 per cent at half time, ended its year with pre-tax profits of £4.6 million, 8.8 per cent up on 1989. Higher profits were achieved despite a 15 per cent fall in turnover to £13.9 million in the year to end-January. The final dividend is 2.85p (2.75p) to give a total of 4.6p (4.25p).

InishTech tops £5m

INISHTech, the industrial holding company that is a subsidiary of the James Cream Group, reports pre-tax profits of £2.21 million (£5.57 million) for the year to the end of December, compared with £2.82 million for the previous nine months. There is a final dividend of 5p (nil). There was again no interim dividend.

Sales rose from £217.88 million to £233.63 million. The company said the performance of all subsidiaries had been up to expectations despite the weakness of the British economy. InishTech has net cash and is well placed to take advantage of an economic revival. A £253,000 goodwill write-off was taken below the line. Earnings per share of 37.4p (23.7p) are before the goodwill amortisation.

Loss widens at Widney

WIDNEY, the engineering group that was subject to a management buy-in last year by David Cassidy and Paul Lines, reports a pre-tax loss of £1.62 million (£1.19 million loss) for the year ended September. The board is hoping for an improved performance, although trading in the current climate is not easy. There is no dividend (0.5p).

Payout held at Pegasus

PEGASUS Group, the software accounting products concern, saw pre-tax profits for the six months to end-January fall from £1.34 million to £774,000, but is paying an unchanged dividend of 3.5p a share. Cash balances at reporting date were £649,000 higher at £2.85 million. Pegasus is planning a joint venture with SAARI of France.

British workers feel the chill as IBM sneezes

COMPUTER watchers reading the announcement of 14,000 IBM job cuts on Thursday could be forgiven for a feeling of *deja vu*.

Two years ago the Big Blue — a bellwether of the US economy — was assuring Wall Street that disappointing 1988 profits were tied to a manufacturing problem that had been fixed. Less than nine months later it announced 10,000 job cuts costing \$2.3 billion.

Just two months ago, IBM was trumpeting a profits surge in the final three months of last year. The job losses this time, costing a further \$2.3 billion, come just days after IBM announced its first quarter profits would be halved.

The difference this year is that Britain will bear a significant part of the cuts. Up to 1,000 of IBM's 20,000 UK employees could go. And of IBM's markets outside North America, only Germany and Japan are expected to show much growth for the first quarter of the year.

Of the 14,000 jobs to go worldwide, about 4,000 will go with the sale of businesses, 6,000 will be cut in North America and 4,000 in Europe. James Andrews, in charge of institutional trading at Jamney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia, said: "They are telling us that the balance of the year is going to be pretty crummy. The recovery is going to be slow."

None of the 50 analysts who follow IBM had any idea its first quarter figures were going to be so bad. They had

pencilled in earnings of about \$1.90 a share until told by IBM they will be closer to 90 cents. With the cost of restructuring, the first quarter loss could be \$1.7 billion.

IBM has also upset some major institutional shareholders focusing on executive pay related to performance. The day IBM announced its impending profits drop, official documents disclosed that John Akers, the chairman, will receive a 35 per cent salary and bonus rise this year to just over \$2.6 million.

Wall Street took a kinder view of the re-organisation. Shares rose \$1 to \$113.85.

Analysts now accept that the turnaround of IBM will be a long job. Last year's \$6 billion profits returned it to levels not seen since the peaks of the mid-Eighties, but IBM is having to run much harder to make a buck. They estimate the company will lose 24 per cent of the market this year to smaller companies, such as Apple, as fiercer competition and the effects of economic recession take their toll.

By the end of this year, IBM will have cut 47,000 jobs since its employment peaked in 1986 at 406,000. But industry observers doubt that the surgery is over. Some analysts are brave enough to forecast a drop in year end profits to \$5.3 billion, a figure earned in 1987 when the shares stood at \$175. Fund managers now say they need to fall much closer to \$100 to look attractive.

PHILIP ROBINSON
New York

SB agrees £5m sale to Medeva

MEDEVA, the medical research and pharmaceutical company, is boosting its range with the acquisition of two products from SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals UK for £5.1 million.

Normax, the laxative, is well established in Britain. Medeva has also bought Dextro-drone, an amphetamine available on prescription for narcolepsy and hyperactivity in children. Last year Medeva, formed when Medirace merged with Evans Healthcare, acquired Thomas Kerfoot, a drug manufacturer.

Wyndham falls

Wyndham Group, the Welsh property and motor retailing group, is passing payment of a preference share dividend because it lacks distributable reserves. In the six months to end-September the firm incurred losses of £1.23 million, compared with profits of £1.3 million before tax.

Loss deepens

Alliance Resources, the Canadian oil exploration and development concern whose shares began trading in London this month, said net losses deepened from Can\$1.03 million (£510,000) to Can\$1.38 million in the nine months to end-January.

Broader trust

The Throgmorton USM Trust is broadening its investment criteria to allow it to buy shares in any fully listed company with a market value of less than £25 million as well as companies on the Unlisted Securities Market.

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Independent spirit gives cost-conscious Cadbury a taste for competition

When Dominic Cadbury retires, he will go down in history as the last in the line to run the former family business. He will retire in four years after ten years as chief executive.

Cadbury, aged 50, professes not to mind one jot. "Sometimes I wonder if I'm being unkind of my heritage, but he really doesn't bother me," he says. "It would be totally misconceived to see this as a family business. It is not, it has been for quite a considerable period of time and I've never thought of it in any way as a family business."

When he joined the company it was already publicly quoted, with about half the shares on the market, and within five years of his arrival, it merged with Schweppes, in 1969. The family holding was then reduced from 50 to 25 per cent. It has since been reduced further.

"The family holding is now tiny, about one or two per cent," Cadbury says. "If you throw in the various trusts you might edge that up to three or four per cent, but we are no longer a significant shareholder."

He jumps on each and every passing reference to the company as a family business, will explain repeatedly why it is not, and is defensive about any suggestion that he rose to where he is within the company because of his name. "Whatever people might say about me getting this job because of my name, I know that I only got it on merit. I'm a professional, hired manager."

But even some of his closest and oldest friends would argue that Cadbury protests too much. He makes his point just a little too loudly.

Gervase Buxton, one of Cadbury's closest friends since their days at prep school and Cambridge University together, says: "Historically, it is a family company and he, after all, is one of the Cadbury family, he is the company's chief executive and he owns quite a few shares. I would think he must feel that he has a proprietary interest in the business, even if it is deep down within his subconscious."

Cadbury might not thank Buxton for these words, and would do his utmost to dispute them, but Buxton is not alone in his view.

And it is almost certainly true. In fact, Cadbury as good as confirms that when he gives details of his methods for keeping a tight rein on costs within the group, he is notorious for monitoring the

BUSINESS PROFILE

By CAROL LEONARD

Dominic Cadbury

The chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes is notorious for keeping a tight rein on company expenses

expense claims made by his fellow executives. Nothing annoys him more, he says, than if he discovers that one Cadbury manager has taken another out for lunch. If he spotted newspapers and magazines being ordered at the company's expense, and not being read, he "would ask questions", and he would also "ask questions" if he saw two or more Cadbury television advertisements following too closely after one another. "It would mean that the marketing department had not co-ordinated the timing," he says.

"I am pretty cost-conscious," he admits. "I am not an accountant but I look very carefully at figures and budgets every month. If I'm in one of our factories I always look to see what is on the floor and if anyone is doing anything about it. And I'm always on the look out for conferences which are over the top in terms of expense." Cadbury's attitude to money, which some people might say was typical of a family business, makes no exception for his own expenditure. Tall, thin and angular, constantly donning and removing tortoiseshell spectacles, he looks more like a polytechnic lecturer than the chief executive of the largest British-owned confectionery and soft drinks company, capitalised at £2.6 billion. His suit and his hair are grey and he is smartly but not expensively dressed. His office, beside Marble Arch and overlooking Hyde Park, contains a functional mis-match of furniture, with pen and ink drawings rather than oils on the walls. He did away with the company chauffeur "because it grieved me to have him sitting around all day doing nothing. It makes much more sense to me to ring up a car firm and get a car when you need one".

Buxton says: "He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth but he is not at all snobbish. He has never

splashed money around, he has always had a pretty low profile when it comes to his personal appearance and how he spends his money. But he is also very generous with anything that he thinks is a worthwhile cause. He is always there with his money if anyone needs help or if you approach him about a charity. I think it comes from his Quaker background. His father was rather the same."

The Quaker background dates back to Cadbury's grandfather, who founded the chocolate business in the 1860s, and who built the Quaker meeting house in Bourneville. "My mother used to take me to Quaker meetings, but it was more out of tradition," says Cadbury. "I wasn't really brought up a Quaker and I found it all a bit strange."

His mother was a member of the Unitarian Church, his South African-born wife, Sally, is Catholic and Cadbury was baptised and confirmed in the Church of England a year ago. "I enjoy church, the service and the sermon, but I felt that I wasn't really a paid up member. I wanted to be able to take part in communion," he says. To be confirmed and baptised at the age of 49 is, nevertheless, unusual. But Cadbury's attitude towards money, be it born of Quaker influences or the legacy of a family business, has been good news for the company's shareholders. Although he scoffs at the size of the family holding, Cadbury's personal stake is almost 550,000 shares, worth more than £2 million. His salary, excluding share options, was £430,000 in 1989. But no one who knows anything about what he has done to the business could possibly resent him having any of that.

After the excesses of the Eighties, he is the type of businessman who is coming into his own in the more circumspect Nineties. His

timing, in that respect, could not have been better. But even before 1990, he had already transformed Cadbury's fortunes.

He joined the company as a graduate trainee in 1964 and became group chief executive 20 years later, but the business, by then, was not in good shape. Things had started to go awry in the mid-Seventies, a five-year management and financial restructuring plan gave temporary relief, but in 1982 profitability again started to slump. In 1985, profits fell from £124 million to £93 million and General Cinema, the American company, was waiting in the wings with an 18 per cent stake. For three successive years, MORI polls in the City showed that Cadbury was considered more vulnerable to takeover than any other company.

In contrast, at the end of last year General Cinema's stake was placed with institutional investors, in March this year the company unveiled pre-tax profits of £280 million and most stockbrokers in the Square Mile are now bullish about its prospects. Dominic may be the last Cadbury to run the business but he is also perceived as the best.

He is loathe to compare himself to his predecessors. They are, after all, family. As chief executive, he succeeded his brother, Sir Adrian Cadbury, 11 years his senior.

"I find it very difficult to make comparisons," he says. "We always got on very well, but he was always very much the older brother." But ask any City analyst who has charted the company's fortunes over the past decade and they will not hesitate to give you a direct comparison.

Buxton says: "Dominic is much better at business than Adrian." He adds: "Adrian is perhaps more intelligent, more sensitive and more well read. Dominic is a bit more pragmatic, less well read, more competitive and tougher. There always was quite a lot of competition among the Cadbury siblings."

Adrian's sensitivities and intellectual leaning comes from his father, Laurence, a shy, practical man, and an avid collector of everything from guns to antique furniture. When the contents of his house were sold, the auctioneer remarked that it was the only library he had ever come across where the vendor had read every book. "He knew that my father had read them all because he wrote notes on each page," says Cadbury. "The only other



If it came to the crunch, family would come first: Dominic Cadbury with his wife and 'best friend', Sally

person who had probably read every book was Adrian."

Dominic, not in any sense shy, and not at all practical, is far more like his mother, a champion of independent schools and a frustrated career woman. Ahead of her time, she went to Cambridge University but left after the first year to marry and bear six children. Dominic was the fifth child.

"She was bright, but not in a blue stocking way, and energetic. She was warm, but because she was so active she would not waste time. Nobody in my family ever wasted time. She was not the sort of person to have a long natter with, she always had something she had to do."

As he speaks, he realises that he could be describing himself. He is always in the office by 8am, leaves at 6pm, and, if the weather is fine, will walk home across Hyde Park. But he is not a workaholic. His wife, whom he describes unhesitatingly as his best friend, and his three daughters, Anna-Louise, 17, Justine, 16, and Georgina, 14, are a vital part of his life.

"I work hard, do everything I need to do to do my job, but if it came to the crunch I would always put them first," he says.

The youngest child is, he says, most like him. "She is the most competitive, she

wants to be doing something all the time. She loves playing any game, cards, bridge, rummy, tennis. And no, I'm not very good at letting them win." The description begins to sound familiar.

Cadbury is open about his strong competitive streak. He can, he admits, be competitive to the point of aggression. It affects the way he operates in business and the way he plays sport.

"I've always enjoyed sports that require determination rather than skill, like squash, rowing and tennis." Here Buxton, who regularly plays tennis with Cadbury, chips in: "You do not really see the competitive side of his nature until you get into competition with him. He plays very much within his capabilities, just as he does in business. He is very fair, very steady, very efficient, he does not make many mistakes and he does not like to lose."

This intensely competitive facet to his nature will surprise anyone who has not seen him in competition. In a relaxed environment, the overwhelming impression he creates is one of being laid-back.

"It does take an awful lot to make me lose my temper," he says. Cadbury must rank as one of the least stuffy bosses in Britain.

His office door is always open, his colleagues come and go freely, on first name terms, and the informal atmosphere is in no way contrived. He is popular, likeable, well balanced, confident but not arrogant, and disarmingly easy to talk to. Unlike so many businessmen in similar positions, whose corporate success is countered by unhappy personal lives, Cadbury has managed to tread the fine line between "I do have a lot of friends and they are very important to me," he says. Baring in mind his family background, and the fact that he was sent to Canada for four years with a nanny when he was just six weeks old — "It was in the middle of the war and, at the time, it wasn't that strange," Cadbury says — he is surprisingly normal.

Even his secretary volunteers that at first she thought he was too good to be true, that the honeymoon period would end. "But it hasn't," she says. "He is always exactly

the same." In a far more subtle way, however, Cadbury admits that he has changed. His competitive nature is supported by a defiantly independent spirit, which, although now firmly under control, was, in his youth, often abrasive.

As a schoolboy at Eton, he was often in trouble with the masters. "I was not an outright rebel, but I was pretty independent. I would always challenge anything my teachers or parents said in a way that some people found obnoxious," he says. "I eventually learnt to be a bit more subtle. I don't lead with my chin anymore."

But beneath that overt confidence, Cadbury is still all too aware of his surname — perhaps painfully so. He mentions that it can, at times, be a disadvantage.

Before joining the firm, he spent two years at Stanford Business School, in California, where, he says, he proved to himself that he could hold his own. That obviously matters a lot to him. And now, despite his proven success at Cadbury Schweppes, it is as if he still craves some higher goal and the public applause that will, undoubtedly, accompany it. Only then will he feel that he has proved the same point to the world at large.

Whatever may be said about me getting this job because of my name, I know I got it on merit

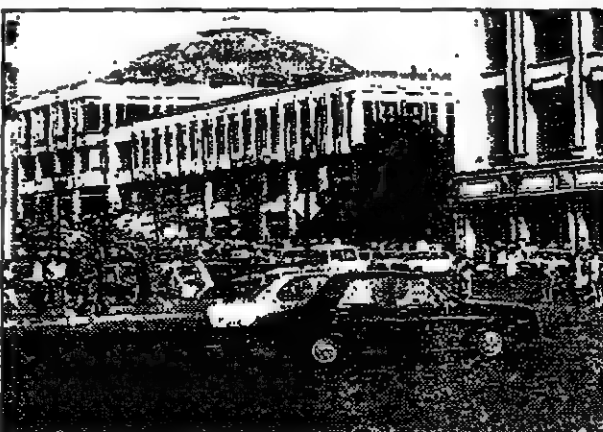
CAPITAL CITY Tim Judah in Bucharest

Bucharest sheds grey image as shops open

Communism turned Bucharest, once known as the Paris of the East, into one of the most grey of eastern Europe's capitals. Now, with economic reform, the city has started to change. This Balkan capital may not yet be ready to regain its old reputation, but new private shops are beginning to transform it.

Formerly empty stores in the city centre now sell a bewildering variety of products which, until a few months ago, could be bought only on the black market, if at all. Underwear, satellite television dishes, shampoo, chocolate, telephones and Western cigarettes are crammed together in the new shops, which often have a little of everything as the shopkeepers are uncertain what will sell best. Because Romanian shops have been empty for so long, some of the products on sale baffle customers and crowds gather to stare at goods and prices far beyond their reach. Fax machines, coconuts and mango juice all fall into this category.

Until recently, shops throughout the capital, and especially in the avenues and boulevards famous for their shopping before the second world war, were obtained only after the location and bribe of the correct town hall official. But now the leasing (but not yet sale) of municipally owned shops has begun through complex Romanian-style "auctions". At the auctions, money is only one of many factors the town hall and the privatisation commission take into account as they tot up points



Bustling again: Bucharest's central shopping area

scored by prospective proprietors in a questionnaire submitted in the form of a sealed bid.

The Romanian authorities are granting about 14,000 business authorisations every month. Many are for shops and many for stalls and roadside kiosks.

In the early days after the revolution, the first entrepreneurs drove to neighbouring countries and bought jeans, soap, bananas or anything else unobtainable, and began to make their first dollars.

Today a network of mostly foreign-owned wholesalers and also "commission shops" has made these trips unnecessary. But many of the new shops will still sell only in hard currency, making them inaccessible to most Romanians. Although few people have access to dollars, there are still enough to keep them going. However, the chief of the national bank has said

that, within months, selling in any currency other than the local leu will be illegal but that shop owners will have free access to Romania's embryonic currency market. The move has been cautiously welcomed by traders.

At present, the currency trades for between 35 and 300 lei to the dollar, depending on official and black market rates.

The transition to the market economy, while providing all sorts of expensive and previously forbidden goods, has new pitfalls. In contrast to the new shops and their imported goods, official state shops, which continue to supply food staples such as meat, cooking oil and butter, are still known to run out. In anticipation of massive price rises, scheduled for Monday, the now semi-autonomous producers are holding back supplies until the new prices come into force.

WINNERS OF THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 1990 INVESTMENT TRUST MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ALLIANCE Trust Companies of Dundee



"Put not your trust in riches, but put your riches in Trust" (John Gull, Chairman, Alliance Trust AGM, Dundee 1891)

THE ALLIANCE TRUST PLC FINAL RESULTS for the year ended 31st January 1991

INCOME: Earnings up 13.8%, Dividend up 14% to 50p per ordinary stock unit.
ASSETS: Total assets £62.8m, net asset value down by 9.4% (FTA down 11.2%).
DISTRIBUTION: Equities: UK 50%, N. America 29.3%, Europe 10%, Far East 5.6%, Cash: 5.1%.
OUTLOOK: Company remains fully invested and has benefited substantially from the recent rise in stock markets.
INFORMATION: Further information is given in the Annual Report and Accounts.

For a copy of the annual report and accounts, please return this coupon to: The Secretary, The Alliance Trust PLC, Meadow House, 64 Forest Street, Dundee DD1 1TJ.

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

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WINNERS OF WHAT INVESTMENT 1990 INVESTMENT TRUST GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

St Andrew Trust

DIVIDEND RAISED BY 15.2%

ANNUAL RESULTS - TO 31 DECEMBER 1990

	YEAR TO 31 DEC 1990	YEAR TO 31 DEC 1989	% CHANGE
Earnings per share	7.36p	6.92p	+6.4%
Dividend	7.20p	6.25p	+15.2%
Net asset value	204.2p	272.6p	-25.1%

HIGHLIGHTS

Fifth successive year of dividend increases above 15%
Fall in net asset value reflects under-performance of smaller companies in difficult trading conditions worldwide in 1990
Resolution of Gulf War and gradual restoration of investor confidence has helped the Trust so far in 1991

ST ANDREW TRUST plc

A member of the Association of Investment Trust Companies

St Andrew Trust specialises in investing in smaller companies in the UK and overseas. The 1990 Annual Report is now available. If you would like a copy, please complete and return the coupon below.

MARTIN CURRIE

THE FIDUCIARY INVESTMENT MANAGERS

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Please send me a copy of the St. Andrew Trust Annual Report ☐

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Japanese bankers feel forex squeeze

the league table, with British Telecom filling the number three slot. Barry Moxley,

The combined business will have 400 staff and operate from centres in Darlington

\$7.6 million, Millicom expects to make a pre-tax gain on the sale of around \$35 million. Mr. Bryan said that the sale would enable his company to concentrate on the core businesses of international cellular phones and satellite television. "This is where we see significant growth potential in the future," he added.

An American dealer estimated total bank losses at up to Y5 billion (£20.5 million). Another dealer, at a Japanese bank, said: "Bank traders got mad at the action, as it violated a gentlemen's agreement." (Reuters)

Nikkei rose 102.27 points. Yesterday's volume was the lowest since February 4 when 240 million shares changed hands.

Ross Rowbury, a broker at Sanyo Securities, said: "This

The dollar ended at Y140.55 and at DM 1.6930 against its New York closings of Y141.05 and DM 1.7035. (Reuters)

With news and features from Champagne in France to Silicon Valley in the US—a sparkling look at the world of business.

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The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

boosts
by 26%

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- SWAPPING HOMES 29
- LETTERS 30

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 30 1991

27

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Lenders reset the mortgage trap

Some lenders never learn. The very mortgage packages that have caused thousands of borrowers to regret the easy lending of the late Eighties are re-emerging. First-time buyers are being offered loans of 105 per cent of the value of the property and can postpone paying more than 20 per cent of the interest in the first year. In addition, they can borrow either 3.75 times their first salary or 2.75 times their joint income.

The loans are available through about 900 brokers, who are guaranteed their money whatever happens. The lender adds the first two years' endowment premiums on to the mortgage so that if the borrower defaults, the insurance company will not claw back the commission. It also means the borrower has to pay interest on those premiums.

Typically, this would add £1,000 to a £50,000 mortgage, explained Mortgage Directory, the agency that puts the brokers in touch with the lenders and

handles the paperwork, credit search and references.

Its other speciality is loans for people with mortgage arrears and county court judgments. Instead of suggesting that people with problems should consider trying to sell their property, move downmarket and reduce their outgoings, the Mortgage Directory organises larger loans. It cites the case of a man who owned a property worth £100,000 and was 11 months in arrears with the mortgage. In addition, he had £8,400 worth of unsatisfied county court judgments. He had recently become self-employed and had no means of confirming his income. His current lender had started repossession proceedings.

The answer was to increase his mortgage to £60,000 so that he could clear the debts and to defer a large part of the interest so that



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

payments were based on an 8 per cent rate. The funding is put up by a small centralised lender specialising in mortgage arrears and people with county court judgments. This kind of business can be profitable for the lender. It is possible to charge a higher interest rate and if the borrower cannot pay then repossession proceedings can be taken. With £40,000 equity in the property, the lender is not likely to lose.

The borrower is allowed to keep his home for a little longer, but at a price.

His mortgage grows larger by the day, thanks to the deferred interest. If he eventually loses his home because he cannot afford the larger payments, he is likely to have a lot less to start with again than if he took that tough decision now.

Even the most optimistic lenders do not see house prices increasing by more than 3 to 4 per cent this year, and only then if mortgage rates come down to 12 per cent. The longer-term predictions are for rises in line with inflation.

A large proportion of the people having their homes

repossessed now are people who were attracted by 100 per cent loans and deferred interest mortgages when interest rates were falling in 1988 and house prices were rising. Since then, house prices have fallen about 20 per cent and still there have been no buyers.

It will be comforting to know that the broker who sells the product has nothing to lose, however much his clients over-extend themselves.

High hopes

Investing in a falling market is a lesson that still has to be taken in by the great British public. The mighty Halifax Building Society has attracted just 6,000 investors and £13 million to its Global Advantage unit trust personal equity plan

since it was launched in late September. That compares with more than 250,000 who have chosen the society's tax-exempt special savings account since it was launched in January.

It will be interesting to watch the progress of investors in the two tax-free schemes over the next five years.

The fund, launched in a joint venture with Standard Life, is showing a 12 per cent gain after six months when charges are taken into account.

After six months it is too early to declare it a winner. However, the best investment does not come from putting money into a chart-topping fund. It comes from being brave and investing gradually over a long period. A fixed amount is invested each month and when markets fall the sum buys more units. Then, when it rises, there are more units to increase in value.

The unit trust industry reported that brokers regained their confidence last month. Now it hopes ordinary investors will too.

Credit cards hold firm despite falling base rate

By LINDSAY COOK AND MARGARET DIBBEN

'It would take just one company to cut rates to see the whole range come down'

AS MORTGAGE rates and savers' returns come down this weekend, other borrowers are having to wait. Despite the bank base rate falling at regular intervals, credit card and personal loan rates remain stubbornly high.

Most of the credit card rates being charged now were set when bank base rates were at 15 per cent. None of the companies have reduced rates yet to take account of the fall to 12.5 per cent. However, some have been increasing loan rates since base rates began to fall and one credit card increase will come into effect next week.

Barclaycard set its current interest rate of 1.85 per cent a month last May when it introduced its £8 annual charge. For someone who borrows £750, this works out at an annual percentage rate of 27.8 per cent when the fee is included.

A spokeswoman said that there was no plan to change the rate for its 9 million card holders, although it was fixed when base rates were 15 per cent. She said: "Base rates are not the most important factor in fixing the interest rate."

Barclays Bank raised the interest rate on its Ascent card in January to 1.94 per cent, an annual percentage rate of 25.9 per cent. The revolving credit account gives no interest-free period. When it was launched, the initial interest rate of 19.9 per cent was guaranteed not to rise until January 1991 for early applicants.

Barclays has not changed its personal loan rates since January last year. These work out at 26.9 per cent for loans between £300 and £950 and 24.4 per cent on sums of £1,000 to £10,000. As with all bank personal loans, the interest rate is fixed when the loan is taken out. Borrowers who take five-year loans now will be stuck with the high interest rate over the full term.

Midland Bank's personal

loan rates were set in November 1989, when base rates first increased to 15 per cent. On loans of £500 to £999, the annual percentage rate is 27.9 per cent and on loans of between £1,000 and £10,000, it is 25.3 per cent. The bank does not expect it to change in the near future.

Midland is cutting its Access card rate next month from 32.1 to 28.5 per cent to take account of the £10 annual fee Midland is introducing on April 10. A spokesman said: "The decision was made prior to the change in interest rates. That consideration is still going on."

Lloyds Bank increased its Access rate at the beginning of March from 26.8 per cent to 28.3 per cent. It last changed its rate at the beginning of 1990. Personal loan rates have stayed unchanged since they were increased to 25.3 per cent in February last year when base rates were at 15 per cent.

National Westminster Bank charges 29.8 per cent on its credit card. The rate was last changed in August 1989. Personal loans cost 27.4 per cent up to £1,500. This was last changed in January last year.

TSB charges its Trustcard customers 31.3 per cent and 29.8 per cent on Mastercard. The Trustcard rate was raised in February last year when base rates were at 15 per cent. Personal loans were increased at the beginning of March to 27.9 per cent on loans up to £1,500 and 25.9 per cent on larger loans. Leeds Permanent Building Society lifted its

credit card rate to 31.3 per cent on March 5, and Allied Irish Bank announced this week that it was increasing its credit card rate from 23.9 to 27.7 per cent from next Wednesday.

At Save & Prosper, Ian Lindsey, banking director, gave hope for a reduction. "The margins are as we would desire. If rates come down again we would be tempted to move," he said.

The bank charges 26.8 per cent on its Classic card to people who opt not to pay an annual fee. The rate was fixed in September, a month before base rates were cut to 14 per cent. "We are beginning to breathe a sigh of relief. Last month we showed a profit of £1,000 on the credit card. There was a fairly hefty charge to provisions of £30,000 during the month," said Mr Lindsey.

Bad debt experience was preventing the lenders from cutting their rates, he said. As more people were made redundant and were unable to pay their credit card bills, bad debt provisions were climbing and eating into profits.

"It would take just one company to cut rates to see the whole range come down."

Several companies have added to the cost of credit card borrowing by scrapping the interest-free period between buying the goods and paying the bill, unless the customer pays it off in full. Barclaycard, Co-operative Bank, Girobank, Leeds Permanent and Midland now charge interest from the date the purchase arrives on the customer's account.

People with unauthorised overdrafts have yet to feel the benefit of lower interest rates. They can be charged as much as 37.6 per cent if they do not seek permission from the bank first. Those customers who ask for an overdraft should pay between 2.5 per cent and 4 per cent over base rate. While lenders are currently calling in



Norwich raises car terms

THE largest motor insurer, Norwich Union, has raised the cost of its credit terms because of poor claims experience. The company sent letters on March 11 to policyholders telling them of the increase, which took effect on March 1 (Lindsay Cook writes).

The rise meant that the higher payments were taken from policyholders' bank accounts by direct debit before they were notified of the increase in the interest from an annual percentage rate of 13.7 to 18.5 per cent.

A spokesman for Norwich Union said the interest rate on the scheme, which allows policyholders to pay their annual premiums by monthly instalments, was not influenced by bank base rates. The cost of the credit agreement was increased because, like other motor insurers, it had had "a pretty rough time last year" with claims.

The rapidly rising cost of motor and contents insurance has made the instalment plans popular in recent years. GA Direct, the direct sales arm of General Accident, charges no extra for the instalment scheme.

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Fund managers may absorb increase in VAT

Pep investors face higher charges

By SARA MCCONNELL

INVESTORS who have opened a personal equity plan (Pep) investing directly in shares in the last week may face paying an extra 2.5 per cent value-added tax on the upfront charge for the plan.

VAT is added to charges made on plans investing directly in equities. The extra amount on some plans comes as Pep managers are reporting their busiest week for months in the run-up to the end of the tax year on April 5.

The Chancellor announced in the Budget that VAT would rise from 15 per cent to 17.5 per cent on April 1. Under the Financial Services Act investors in direct equity Peps normally have to be given a seven-day cooling off period. This means plans that were taken out after Tuesday will be caught by the new VAT rate. At least one unit trust management company, MIM Britannia, will be charging the higher rate.

Alastair Herbert, marketing manager at MIM Britannia, said: "We will be passing the extra cost on to clients. Margins have been squeezed heavily because of the Financial Services Act and the equity Pep is more expensive to run."

He estimated that the extra cost in VAT on the full £6,000 invested in a Pep would be £750 a year. Other Pep managers said they would be absorbing the extra tax liability for their clients.

Anne McMeahan, director at Framlington, said: "Pep managers have two options. They can either bear it themselves or pass it on to their clients. We



McMeahan: options for managers have decided that rather than contact all investors we would take it on the chin."

Save & Prosper and Fidelity are also planning to absorb the increase. Both S&P's Managed Portfolio and Dealing Plan can have the full £6,000 Pep allowance invested, and the company will reduce its charges to pay for the extra VAT. Investors who have already been asked to send a cheque for £6,107.64 will only be charged £6,105.32. Fidelity said that anyone who had returned an application for the Fidelity personal equity plan by March 28 should not have to pay more.

All companies admit that annual

management charges for equity Peps plans will go up because investors have to pay VAT on top of the yearly fee. Most companies charge between 1 and 1.5 per cent of the value of the fund.

Unit trust Peps will not be affected by the increase. In some cases they will be able to continue to accept applications right up to April 5. M&G is holding its Pep open until this date because its investment in unit trusts alone means it can operate a 14-day cancellation period rather than a seven-day cooling off period.

Investors in direct equity Pep schemes will now no longer be able to buy shares from a rights issue in a plan if the new shares push them over the annual Pep limit, the Chancellor announced in the Budget.

Planholders can now hold up to £3,000 a year in a single company Pep as well as £6,000 in a general Pep, but will have to sell shares to accommodate a rights issue if they would otherwise go over this limit.

Before the Budget, planholders could take up a rights issue and hold the new issues within a Pep even if this made them exceed the limit.

Rights issue shares can be transferred directly if this is done within 42 days of the date of allocation of the issue, but the change is likely to hit investors who want to take advantage of the growing number of rights issues being announced by companies who are needing to raise more funds.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at 25% 25%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	3.00	2.43	none/none	7 day	---
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Barclays	8.77	7.02	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
Bank of Scotland	8.86	7.08	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	8.10	6.48	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Branch
Midland	7.88	6.27	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local Branch
Midland	6.44	4.84	10,000-no max	1 mth	071-280 2505
Midland	6.02	4.42	10,000-no max	3 mth	071-280 2505
Midland	5.34	3.74	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-280 1000
Midland	5.34	3.74	10,000-24,000	3 mth	071-280 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland	9.16	9.56	7.85	2,500	none 031-42 7777
Barclays	8.11	8.36	6.89	2,500	none 0604 252891
Co-operative	5.76	5.00	4.00	2,500	none 071 528 8543
Ulster	5.76	5.00	4.00	2,500	none 071 528 8543
Cheltenham & Gloucester	5.38	4.84	3.73	5,000	none 0272 453372
Midland	7.13	7.26	5.07	2,000	none
Northwest	7.19	7.00	6.88	500	none 071-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scotland	7.99	8.24	8.24	2,500	none 031-658 8555
TSB Bank	7.01	7.01	5.61	2,000	none 071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary A/c	5.15	5.15	4.92	1 mth	none
Best buy - large	5.25	5.25	5.00	1 mth	none
National Alliance	9.75	9.75	7.80	500 mth	none
National & Provincial	10.25	10.25	8.25	2,500 mth	none
West Yorkshire	10.25	10.25	8.25	2,500 mth	none
Bristol & West	10.25	10.25	8.25	2,500 mth	none
Best buy - all socs	10.25	10.25	8.25	2,500 mth	none
Cheltenham & Gloucester	10.54	10.54	8.54	10,000 mth	none
Lancashire	10.54	10.54	8.54	10,000 mth	none
Lancashire	10.54	10.54	8.54	10,000 mth	none
Market Harborough	10.54	10.54	8.54	10,000 mth	none
Lancashire	10.54	10.54	8.54	10,000 mth	none
Cash/Current Accounts:					
Barclays	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Bank of Scotland	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Cheltenham & Gloucester	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Co-operative	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Ulster	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Cheltenham & Gloucester	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Midland	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Northwest	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
Royal Bank of Scotland	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate
TSB Bank	5.83	5.71	4.57	28 mth	Phone rate

Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	5 day	041-446-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	9.75	7.25	5-25,000	1 mth	041-446-4555
Income Share	13.50	10.13	6.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0252 65151
Depositor's A/c	13.50	10.13	6.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	041-446-4555
30th Issue Cert	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-1,000	8 day	071-330-4000
Twenty Year	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-200mth	14 day	071-330-4000
Guaranteed	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555
Capital Share	13.50	10.13	7.25	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555

Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	5 day	041-446-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	9.75	7.25	5-25,000	1 mth	041-446-4555
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30th Issue Cert	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-1,000	8 day	071-330-4000
Twenty Year	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-200mth	14 day	071-330-4000
Guaranteed	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555
Capital Share	13.50	10.13	7.25	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555

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Twenty Year	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-200mth	14 day	071-330-4000
Guaranteed	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555
Capital Share	13.50	10.13	7.25	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555

Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	5 day	041-446-4555
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Twenty Year	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-200mth	14 day	071-330-4000
Guaranteed	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555
Capital Share	13.50	10.13	7.25	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-546-4555

Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	5 day	041-446-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	9.75	7.25	5-25,000	1 mth	041-446-4555
Income Share	13.50	10.13	6.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0252 65151
Depositor's A/c	13.50	10.13	6.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	041-446-4555
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Market leader: Valerie and Peter Jones of NPE

Property swaps hit by spate of closures

By CLIVE PARISH

HOUSE and flat hunters attracted by the prospect of saving thousands of pounds on their next move could find themselves caught in a web of business break-ups.

A spate of closures among property exchange companies may have left hundreds of people with no hope of a refund or the chance of moving home. The names of other subscribers have been passed on to insurance salesmen looking for "hot" mortgage leads.

Property exchange schemes first appeared in the late Eighties, offering a cheap, nationwide alternative to estate agents that avoided the need to pay costly commission or stamp duty. For a small fee, typically less than £50, home owners register their property and state the area and price range they want. They are then sent a regularly updated list of available properties for as long as their registration lasts, usually some months.

The hope is to link up in a single or multi-swap arrangement. Some schemes leave it to the individual to arrange their own exchanges via the published registers, others offer their own "computer-dating" or match-

making service, and change a completion fee of a few hundred pounds.

Either way, as long as the difference between the prices of the properties exchanged is less than £30,000, no stamp duty is payable. And an estate agent can still be instructed without incurring the higher multi-commission rates.

The success of a scheme is dependent on numbers. The more on the register, the greater the company's revenue and the better the chances of a successful swap.

However, exchange schemes have been failing the slump as keenly as other businesses in the housing market. While property exchange normally suffers from a surplus of people looking to swap homes, the pressure on hard-pressed mortgage holders to make use of the service to find cheaper homes has not come to the rescue of several schemes.

A statement issued by the National Property Exchange (NPE), a scheme based in Southsea, Hampshire, named up to ten exchange companies thought to have ceased trading since Christmas. It offered a one-third discount to subscribers of failed competitors.

The statement said that others

had "galloped into the market without adequate thought", and had concerned themselves with "little more than the greed of collecting subscriptions".

But NPE, which is run by a husband and wife team, Valerie and Peter Jones, says it has Britain's largest register with 6,000 properties, named at least one company still in business, Property Exchange Directory of Brighton.

According to Susan Nunn, one of the company's three partners, it has 1,950 properties registered and provides removal assistance and legal and mortgage advice, as well as a computer matching service. It was a "market leader" with NPE.

Ms Nunn said: "We are all worried about the integrity of the property exchange business. The whole industry is being brought into disrepute by companies going under. A lot of people will have lost their money."

"We tend to hear who goes out of business. Some have not been running very long, but they couldn't afford to keep up the expense of national advertising."

"We've taken over one register. They were in a terrible state

financially despite a lot of hard work. Like all new ideas, you don't know how it's going to work. It's not just a new business but a new idea."

One company that has ceased trading is Chainbreaker Home Exchange UK, based in Southampton. Its register, however, has been taken over by a new company, also called Chainbreaker, which operates out of a branch office of Manulife Financial, the life insurance company, in Chislehurst, Kent.

A separate telephone line is used to take calls for Chainbreaker. Rod Newman, one of two directors running the new business, said that the 180 existing customers had been taken on at the insistence of the old company. The fortnightly update was being revamped into a brochure and a new commercial section was being added. The scheme was being thrown open to anyone who just wanted to buy or sell, and there would be no charge to register.

"We want to build up the register again, but we will consider a small charge later," said Mr Newman.

"We use the office of a large assurance company with the permission of the management. It cuts

down on overheads. We are also in a good position to quote for any mortgage or finance business they may need when moving house."

Graham Sandy, Manulife's director for the southern region, was at first unaware of the arrangement. He said: "All our consultants are self-employed. If they decide to buy a hotel there are no restrictions. What they can't do is operate any financial services of another company."

Later he confirmed that two Manulife consultants had taken over publication of the register because "they were getting good mortgage leads" and were running Chainbreaker with the knowledge of the branch manager. They were involved, however, on a rescue-only basis until existing contracts had been fulfilled.

The matter would then be reviewed and in the meantime the operation would be funded out of the commission on endowment policies. "Provided people get the service they expect, it is cheaper than estate agents, and they get 'best advice' as Lauro requires, then I think the service is excellent," said Mr Sandy.

Lenders hope for Easter fillip on homes front

Borrowers can expect a cut in mortgage rates early next week, reports Lindsay Cook

MORTGAGE interest rates come down for most borrowers on Monday and there is the promise of a further fall before too long, whether base rates are cut again or not. Fixed rate and stabiliser loans are being offered to homebuyers and the number and size of first-time buyer discounts has increased this week.

Lenders hope the housing market will improve during the Easter weekend. Traditionally, the holiday has spelled the start of the house moving season. Brighter weather and lighter evenings encourage home hunting.

The Portman Wessex Building Society this week launched a fixed rate mortgage at 11 per cent until June 30, 1993. This overtakes its offer last week of loans at 11.75 per cent. The cheap rate is available on repayment, endowment and pension mortgages. There is £50 million available.

Most societies are moving on to a base rate of 13.75 per cent on Monday. Bank base rates would have to come down at least another 2 per cent to make mortgage rates to equal the Portman offer.

Ken Culley, Portman chief executive, said: "Whilst this product is being introduced against the background of an anticipation that mortgage interest rates will fall further this year, I know that for some of our customers the importance of knowing exactly where they stand with their financial

commitments over a period of time is important."

There is an arrangement fee of £350. The society will charge three months' interest to anyone moving on within the fixed-rate period, and one month's in the following three years. At the end of the fixed period, borrowers may be offered a further fixed term, depending on the availability of funds and the conduct of the account.

The Scarborough Building Society has a three-year fixed rate mortgage at 11.75 per cent. The rate is available on repayment, endowment and pension mortgages. An arrangement fee of £150 is charged and there is an early redemption penalty of three months' interest.

Colin Macleod, assistant general manager, said: "The latest 0.5 per cent drop in base rates, allied to a clear consumer wish to get the housing market on the move again, has given us both scope and demand to create a highly appealing product."

Citibank is offering fixed mortgages over ten years at 11.95 per cent or over five years at 11.9 per cent. It also has one-year capped mortgage

at 11.99 per cent and a two-year capped rate of 11.98 per cent. With the capped mortgages, the customer is charged an interest rate that cannot be increased. However, if interest rates in general fall below the capped rate, the borrowers receive the benefit of the lower rates.

Stephen Balme, marketing director at Citibank Mortgage, said: "The events of the past two years have demonstrated how difficult it is to predict interest rate movements and monthly mortgage costs."

"Whilst interest rates seem to fall by the day, home owners remain nervous about the long and short-term outlook for interest rates, especially the younger and first-time buyers, for whom stability of rate is so important."

The bank charges one month's gross interest as the arrangement fee for the ten-year loan. This can be added to the mortgage. The five-year fixed loans have a fee of £250. The fees for one-year and two-year capped loans are £196 and £296. There is a three-month penalty for redemption during the fixed and capped periods.

Barclays Bank has introduced a mortgage with a stabilised rate of 11.95 per cent, on which payments are based.

With stabiliser loans, interest is deferred when rates are high and when they are low any previously deferred interest is reduced.

Currently, this would mean that 1.8 per cent of the mortgage rate for new borrowers would be added to the loan. To qualify, applicants must be earning more than £15,000 a year.

The bank also offers a 1 per cent discount on endowment and pension-linked mortgages for first-time buyers and those borrowing more than £75,000.

National & Provincial Building Society is increasing its mortgage discount for first-time buyers to 2 per cent. This applies until the end of the year and gives an initial interest rate of 11.75 per cent. On a £30,000 mortgage, the saving could be £400.

Brian Morrison, director of mortgages and secured lending, said: "First-time buyers are still facing historically high repayments, even with recent reductions in interest rates."

The society has also set up a helpline for customers on its annual review scheme for mortgages who are having difficulty meeting their payments.

Those who telephone 0274 84200 can have their payments changed to the society's



Fixed rates prop up income

By OUR MONEY EDITOR

SAVERS should start looking to lock in fixed interest rates to guarantee their income over the next few years as base rates fall.

Chase de Vere Investments is offering a guaranteed income bond paying 9.5 per cent for three years. For those not wanting to take income, the guaranteed bond will give a return of 31.29 per cent, assuming that basic rate tax is paid.

For a higher rate taxpayer the annual return is 8.08 per cent and the growth option provides 26.6 per cent.

The bond, which has a minimum investment of £5,000, is fully protected under the Policyholders' Protection Act.

Roz Barber, manager of Chase de Vere Moneyline research and information division, said: "Guaranteed income bonds continue to be very popular. However, with interest rates continuing to fall, this bond locks into the higher rate without having to tie money up for too long."

National Savings has withdrawn its 35th issue of savings certificates guaranteeing 9.5 per cent tax-free over five years. It has been replaced by the 36th issue paying 8.5 per cent.

There are few building society accounts offering fixed returns. Most guarantee to pay a fixed amount above the society's ordinary share rate. This can lead to disappointment after a few months when more attractive rates are offered on shorter term accounts.

When an account is closed to newcomers the interest rate may not be kept at the same key rate as it was when new money was needed.

A reader who placed £600,000 into a two-year term account with the Nationwide Building Society early last year was dismayed to find that a one-year account was launched a few months later paying 1 per cent more than he was receiving.

The differential between the two accounts continues and he cannot earn the higher amount without sacrificing 90 days' interest.

Grandparents urged to help families save tax

GRANDPARENTS are being encouraged to use the new tax system on savings to help their families pay less tax. The Yorkshire Building Society has published an information leaflet that details the scrapping of composite rate tax (CRT) on savings accounts from April 6 (Lindsay Cook writes).

The guide explains that non-taxpayers will be able to earn gross interest payments under the new system. This will make it more tax-efficient to give money directly to a child rather than to the parents.

Until CRT is abolished all interest paid on bank and building society savings accounts will be taxed at 22 per cent, which cannot be reclaimed by non-taxpayers. It therefore has made little difference whether grandparents give spare money to their grandchildren rather than to the parents.

From now on, grandparents keen both to give to their family and to help minimise their offspring's tax bill can hand over even more through careful planning, the leaflet advises.

Up to £3,000 a year can be given away without the risk of any potential liability to inheritance tax. If no gift was made in the last financial year ending on April 5, 1990, then up to £5,000 can be handed over before next Saturday.

If a grandparent gives money to the parent that is eventually intended for a grandchild there could be, as far as the Inland Revenue is concerned, confusion as to where the money came from. Parents are limited in the amount that they can give to their children and for the youngsters' savings still to qualify for gross payment of interest.

Grandparents can, however, give with no limit, so long as the child's total in-



George Lowe 'great care'

Classic cars cover more of the road

By LINDSAY COOK

MONEY EDITOR

AN INSURANCE policy that encourages classic car owners to use their vehicles was launched this week by AA Insurance. The policy, underwritten by Economic Insurance, allows drivers to use their cars for 10,000 miles a year instead of the more usual 3,000 for this kind of cover.

The premiums are worked out according to the type of car, the mileage, and the vehicle's age. As well as covering the car comprehensively, AA Classic Car

provides a free annual valuation for owners of cars worth more than £10,000. Those with less valuable cars can use the independent valuation scheme by paying an extra £20.

Included in the price of the policy is a claims assistance service that recovers out-of-pocket expenses when someone else is to blame for an accident. This can include any excess on the policy and hire of another car while the insured's is off the road.

The policy will cover cars from ten years old up to a value of £150,000. Drivers can

use their cars for commuting, rallies and trials and even hire them out for weddings. Racing is banned.

The owner of a 1964 Morris Minor 1000 worth £1,500 who plans to drive it for 1,500 miles a year could pay as little as £51.70 a year if the car is garaged and he or she lives in Whitechurch, Hampshire. The driver would also pay the first £50 of accidental damage.

A 1904 Renault Park Phaeton worth £30,000 and driven solely for 1,500 miles a year would cost £446.70 with an excess of £150.

At the other end of the

speed scale the owner of a Ferrari 512 BB Boxer worth £87,000 and driven for 3,000 miles a year would pay £651.70. An excess of £100 would operate.

George Lowe, AA insurance director, said: "Although claims can be expensive, because of the rarity and value of the cars involved, this has to be balanced against the fact that they are used for relatively little time, and that great care is generally taken of them."

"Many, indeed, represent huge investments to their owners."

Hong Kong's high risk attraction

By BARBARA ELLES

UNIT trusts specialising in Hong Kong have lately topped the one-year performance tables for the Far East without Japan. However, one trust heavily invested in the colony has recently been on offer at a discount.

With Chinese rule looming just beyond horizon, are small investors once more building up to an awful let-down, this time in Hong Kong?

Thornton Unit Management has just closed a one-week 1 per cent discount offer on its Oriental Income unit trust, 30 per cent of which is invested in Hong Kong. Thornton's Tiger trust currently has 45 per cent of its portfolio in the colony and no terms of reference to prevent 100 per cent investment in the area.

However, Nick Hodgson of Thornton said that single-country investment is not the group's style. He explained that the special offer on the Oriental Income fund was run to alert investors to the possibility of a relatively high income from a traditionally low or no-yield region. Oriental Income is yielding 5.2 per cent compared with a Far Eastern average of 0.9 per cent.

Mr Hodgson said that the reversion of Hong Kong's lease to China in 1997 would not necessarily be a problem as economic dependence is already a reality. He said: "Hong Kong was the only major market to show a positive

return last year in local currency terms. It is a volatile area, but tremendous growth is likely with a certain amount of associated risk."

Providence Capital's £11.5 million Hong Kong unit trust ranked first of the 38 Far East funds excluding Japan monitored by Micropal, with a gain of 10.3 per cent in the year to March 11.

Ashok Shah, the fund manager, noting China's commitment to retain the present system in Hong Kong for 50 years, said: "A lot of people focus on 1997 as if everything were going to zero value then, but that really is not the case. The Chinese could change the rules. But it is in their interest not to disturb Hong Kong. It provides huge employment for southern China."

Mr Shah has concentrated on companies included in the Hang Seng index, avoiding hotels, textiles and property. At present his largest holding is in Hong Kong Telecom. He pointed out that in the immediate future the colony's performance would depend very much on what happened to the American economy, its biggest export market.

"We have marketed the Hong Kong trust as a very high risk, volatile trust simply because it is a single country trust," he said. "The change of ownership implies a political risk which may or may not be already fully discounted by the market."

At Gartmore, the £11 million Hong

Kong trust run by Bruce Seton showed a gain of 8.1 per cent over the year to mid-March and Mr Seton said he felt that the political risk was probably already built in to market prices in Hong Kong, adding that price/earnings ratios there are at about half the levels seen elsewhere.

"You have political risks wherever you go," he said. "The factor I like is that you are investing in a country which is dollar denominated, so there is reasonable currency stability. Also, it has access to about a billion people as a manufacturing area."

Gartmore's Hong Kong trust consists mainly of blue chip stocks with a few good quality second line companies such as Amoy Properties. "It is already a volatile market," Mr Seton said. "You don't need to emphasize that by going into third liners."

Wardley's £5.5 million Hong Kong trust gained 5.9 per cent in the year to mid-March, ranking third behind Providence Capital and Gartmore.

Wai Keung Wan, the manager of Wardley's fund, took a sanguine view of developments after 1997, but said there could be some bumpy times.

Small investors should watch out for the currency risk when investing in Hong Kong, he said. "Currency movements have been so brisk in recent times, the exchange rate can go up or down by more than 10 per cent in a matter of weeks. You might get

the market right but have your gain totally wiped out."

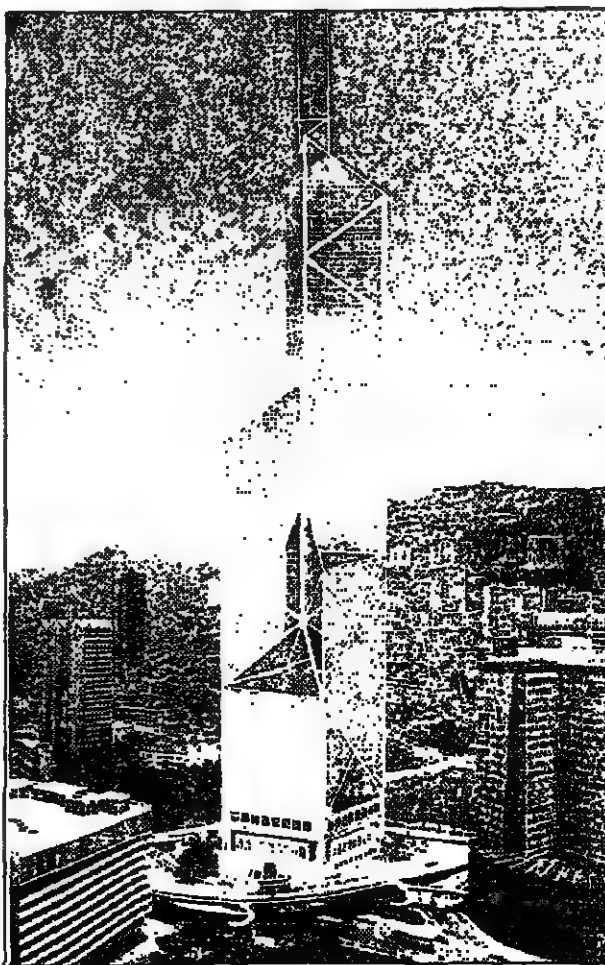
A weak outlook for sterling would be a positive factor for investment in non-sterling trusts," he added.

Mr Wan said the Hong Kong market is still comparatively cheap, with companies selling at prices equivalent to ten times their prospective earnings. But if these price/earnings ratios moved up to 15 investors should see it as a danger sign and take a cautious view.

"There's no place like Hong Kong," said Mr Wan. "A lot of people have gone to Canada or Australia to buy some sort of insurance policy by having a different passport, but those places are nothing in terms of business opportunities or career advancement. That is why they are coming back."

Fund managers are not alone in their positive views of Hong Kong. "One thing communism did for China was to feed a billion previously starving people," said James McBurney, Asian development director at MacArthur & Co, the broker. The Bank of China building in Hong Kong was, he believed, a good symbol of China's attitude to Hong Kong.

"It is going to be difficult for the system to change but I don't believe they will disturb Hong Kong as such," he said. "The Chinese are totally, totally commercial people — and Hong Kong is the cash cow of China."



Bank of China: symbol of Hong Kong's future?

By SARA McCONNELL

Non-customers will be offered the package of shares, which will be traded separately after dealings have

Unlike their English counterparts, ScottishPower and Hydro-Electric each generate, transmit, supply and distribute electricity. They also sell and service electrical goods and appliances.

Yours faithfully,
H.M. WATSON,
17 Franks Avenue,
New Malden, Surrey.

On the other hand we hear of banks complaining about the results of their indiscriminate actions. They are concerned that not sufficient direct debits go through the system, but many people tear up documents urging them to use the direct debit system because such transactions are difficult to monitor in such a way as to avoid onerous penalties on small overdrafts. Banks worry that 9 million cheques are written daily, a third of them by individuals;

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY FIELD,
152 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican,
London EC2

Society's raw deal

Sir, I read with interest your comments concerning National Housing Building Society's shoddy treatment of its borrowers who are a captive audience to the imposed higher mortgage rate they are having to pay. This lack of concern was also experienced earlier this year, as you are now

The figures are even worse after the effect of inflation on what has been kept back in the early years of an escalating pension – because the £370 difference does not get paid back until year 12 or 13. This is hardly a fair bargain.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. LANG,
Whitewick Farm,
Stolford, Stogursey,
Bridgewater, Somerset.

We took the decision following the most recent 0.5 per cent base rate cut that it would make sense to wait for a further reduction before bringing down our rates for our existing borrowers. All the

*The first interest payment will be made on the 5th/6th April 1992.

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ICE HOCKEY

HIGH BOX IT! EDGE

Stringing along: Ian Balding casts an eye over his powerful team as it winds across the historic Kingsclere gallons in the morning sunshine

But with Liverpool, rather than Epsom, at the forefront of his mind, his thoughts returned to Crystal Spirit. "In his own way, he is probably the most sought after horse in the country. If anyone wanted to own the nicest horse in the country, he would be it."

By BRIAN BEUL

Judicial Wit when he beat Staunch Friend by three-quarters of a length at Leopardstown.

The victory of Judicial Wit has already been endorsed by Staunch Friend this season and the pair meet on the same terms.

In the Irish Lincolnshire Piggett, Judicial Wit who became the first leg of the first-ever treble for trainer Barry Kelly when scoring over hurdles at Downs Royal. The likely favourite for today's event is Montifiore Avenue, already the winner of two handicaps this season.

The other Piggett mount is the Paddy Prendergast-trained course winner Some Fun in the Sunnysill Handicap.

LESTER Piggott is in action at the Curragh today for the opening of the season of the season which has broad mounts, three provided by Vincent O'Brien.

Piggott has been down to Ballydoyle to ride work and the trio, Sportsworld (2.30), Legal Profession (3.30) and Judicial Wit (4.0), should all be forward enough to win.

Sportsworld did not run as a two-year-old, but a cluster of classic engagements indicates the high quality which Vincent O'Brien contains in the hands of the Dublin Area winner Alleged.

Last season, Piggott rode Legal Profession to a four-length win over Star Sleuth at the Curragh, and he was also aboard

Judicial Wit when he best Staunch Friend in a three-quarter of a length at Leopardstown.

The victory of Judicial Wit has already been endorsed by Staunch Friend this season and the pair meet on the same terms.

In the Irish Lincolshire Piggott rides Larnaca, who became the first leg of the first-ever treble for trainer Barry Kelly when scoring over hurdles at Down Royal. The likely favourite for today's event is Montfleur Avenue, already the winner of two handicaps this season.

The other Piggott mount is the Paddy Prendergast-trained course winner Some Fun in the Sunnyhill Handicap.

Selection

4 U-2 DAN OTTLEY Mrs J Picking 12-11-7 D Daniels (7)
 8 JUST FRANCIE Mrs J Rowley 7-11-7 P Newell
 6 4296 LATERAL 15 J Bradley 7-11-7 D Tapp
 18 4298 18 PART-DANCE 18 Tapp-Dance 5-11-7
 C Literally
 8 /90 PASO ALLERTTA 7 P Cowley 5-11-7
 8 5-6F ROSEHORN 8 Jimmy Fitzinger 9-11-7 D Byrne
 10 P-7 TIGER MELODY 336 M Kilderson 8-11-7 J Shortt
 11 PAUF BILL AND COUP 16 W Morgan 6-11-2 A S Smith (8)
 11-10 Rosehorn, 3-1 Mr Pantoline, 11-2 Dan Ottley, 5-1
 Just Frankie, 10-1 Lateral, 14-1 Paso Allerta, 65-1 others.

(CHASE \$2,329; 2m) (5)

1 1150 RED HONDO 18 (F, R) J Schwartz 7-10-0 D Topp
2 1150 BAYVIEW 18 (F, R) J Schwartz 7-10-0 G Lamm
3 1150 SARACINI 11 (F, R) J Taylor 11-10-0 J Short
4 1150 LAECROFT 24 (G) W High 7-10-0 G Lyons
5 1150 POATHEE 18 K Morgan 8-10-0 A S Smith (5)
6 1150 REAL BEAR 108 J Bradley 8-10-0 M A Parnett (7)
7 415 THE GREEN STUFF 171 (R, C, G) J Upson 10-10-0

8 J/ ESPERO 898 C Vernon Miller 10-10-0 W Humphreys
11-10 Red Rondo, 7-2 Trivet, 4-1 The Green Stuff, 5-1
Lacraft, 10-1 Saracini, 23-1 others.

5 20 10-1 MILDRED PINE 41-1, 20 26-1, 20 4-1

110Yd (10)

1 -5PP BASHARE'S 8 (8) D Morril 9-11-7 R Campbell
2 -226 COOPER MARKET 13 M Hammond 8-11-7 P Hines
3 ELLESTON HILL C Thornton 9-11-7 A Orsley
4 -P6-8 MELICUS 21 C Brookes 8-11-7 B de Hain
5 90 Mel N Evans 10-11-7
6 -P6P RHODESIDG 88 M Cayst 9-11-7
7 -083 TEAM LEADER 11 T Foster 8-11-7 C Llewellyn
8 -P-P0 THE HUCKLEBURY 7 R Dickin 8-11-7 D Byrne
9 -WU THE MERRY GANDLER 14 (8) M Pipe 9-11-7
..... R Sumner (8)

10 10P0 SOUTHERN UNITED 67 J Upson 5-10-12 R Supple

7-4 Team Leader, 9-4 Melicus, 7-2 Copper Market, 5-1 Elton Hill, 50-1 others.

5.30 PLOUGH MAIDEN CHASE (Div III: £2,232: 2m
41 110yd) (10) ..

1 5085 EBORWEEZER'S DREAM 16 Mrs S Larmyhan 8-11-7 D Toller
2 PFF FINAL SPRING 12 Mrs J Breese 8-11-7 R Supple
3 2/5 INTO THE GLEN 7 W A Stephenson 8-11-7
Mr K Johnson
4 0632 LITTLE BRYMA 12 L Perry 8-11-7 A S Smith (5)
5 4UP ROULE THE BLOCK 22 (5,5) C Tristram 8-11-7
P Page (7)
6 226 ROYAL FREEMASTER 6 J Edwards 7-11-7 D Toss
7 40P THE MAN FROM CHAN 63 G Rastall 8-11-7
Mr C Radcliffe

8 **32P HOW MAJESTIC** 13 S Christian 7-11-2 **K Mooney**
10 **62P NORTHERN QUAY** 11 C Vernon Miller 7-11-2
W Humphrey
11 **64P How Majestic** 5-2 York Imperial, 5-1 Royle
Speedmaster, 7-1 Into The Glen, 8-1 others.

6.0 HERON OF NEWBANK HANDICAP CHASE
(\$2,811; 3m 100yd) (F)

1 **51P2 SAMFEN** 14 **(J,F,G,S)** M H Easterly 5-11-13
2 **SP12 NORVAL** 12 **(J,F,G,S)** Mrs G Ravoley 9-11-5 **R Gerrity**
3 **SP12 RED CALA** 15 **(C,S)** K Wagnore 10-1-2 **P Niven**
4 **SP12** **NORVAL** 12 **(J,F,G,S)** K Wagnore 10-1-2

5 5160 GREEN TOPS 32 (V.O.G.S.) M Avion 9-10-8 5 Thane
6 3282 ARDENT SPY 10 (V.O.G.S.) W Clay 14-10-1
7 8000 SOME DO IS (O.G.S.) J McCannochie 8-10-4 J Short
8 0604 ROMEWILE WY 10 N Twiston-Davies 6-10-2 C Llewellyn
9 4-8 JAMAL STRUCK 32 (V.O.G.S.) C Thillou 11-10-4
In Saffery (2)

11-4 Norval, 7-2 Samian, 4-1 Red Columbo, 5-1 See You
There, 7-1 Ronnie Will, 10-1 Green Tops, 14-1 others.

☐ Peter Scudamore has decided not to ride
today, but hopes to return to action on Monday.

3: Mrs. M. Eason, 3 winners from 7 runners
6 from 15, 33.3%; M. Pipe, 141 from 43
4 from 15, 26.7%; F. Jordan, 4 from 11
4 from 25, 20.0%.

RS: J Upson, 9 winners from 23 runners, 8 from 21, 38.1%; M Pipe, 23 from 68, 34%; S Tinkler, 23 from 68, 34%; C Tinkler, 3 from 14, 21%; D Tinkler, 14 from 61, 23%.

11-4 Norva, 7-2 Samien, 4-1 Red Columbi, 5-1 See You There, 7-1 Ronnie WBL, 10-1 Green Tops, 14-1 others.

☐ Peter Scudamore has decided not to ride today, but hopes to return to action on Monday.

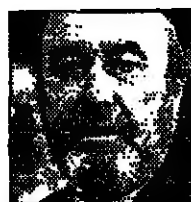
□ Peter Scudamore has decided not to ride today, but hopes to return to action on Monday.

Sports aid scheme is 'fraught with dangers'

Many people in British sport had high hopes that the Budget would provide some evidence to back up the government's recent attempts to claim conversion to being sports mad and eager to help the industry. Those hopes have been cruelly dashed. In place of concrete measures, we have an enormous gamble and more questions than answers.

The government refused to take any immediate steps to support sport, through, for example, lifting the burden of corporation tax from sport's national bodies.

The sports minister, Robert Atkins, had told the press in January that this move would have got vitally-needed money through to the grass roots and stopped a "vast loss of income which could be devoted to schools and clubs". For that



COMMENT

TOM PENDRY

reason, he was putting the proposal to the Treasury. It appears he got short shrift.

Instead, the Chancellor managed, in outlining his scheme for a new foundation for sport and the arts — funded by the pools companies and a reduction in the tax on them — to bewilder sports administrators, who have no idea how such a scheme would operate, to anger the minority pools companies, who were not consulted; and to deliver a humiliating snub to his sports minister.

Quite why the already under-invested football industry should

be required by the Chancellor to provide cash for the arts and other sports is a mystery.

If there is any money within the football industry, I should have thought that the government would wish it to be used to install safe seating at grounds, rather than subsidise seats at the Royal Opera House. After all, there is a binding agreement between the English and Scottish leagues and the pools companies over the allocation of football pools monies that appears to have been bypassed in this unsavoury process.

That is not to say that I think the arts should not receive more support from central government. Far from it. But it should receive it as of right in greater direct government grant, rather than as a hand-out from football punters, who will pay for the proposed foundation out of their stakes.

Just as importantly, however, the Budget has resulted in an irresponsible gamble that is fraught with dangers. For the plain fact is that in answers to a series of parliamentary questions which I put down this week, the Chancellor has revealed to me that he has allowed himself, on the basis of one meeting on March 8 with only one of the pools companies, to agree to include in the Budget a scheme for which there does not exist even the most basic plans.

For when I asked for such simple details as what method and criteria would be adopted in deciding the membership of the proposed foundation and whether or not bodies such as the four sports councils, the British Olympic Association, the Central Council of Physical Recreation or local authorities' organisations would be included as members, he was unable to tell me.

Also, he revealed that he did not know the ratio of funding between sport and the arts which will be provided by the foundation, or how many staff would be required to run it.

Perhaps, most worryingly, there are no concrete plans in place to ensure any effective monitoring, audit or accountability of the foundation's work, and, amazingly, neither the Chancellor himself nor any treasury minister has immediate plans to meet the

pools companies to discuss these matters.

The government has told me that it hopes the scheme will begin operating by the start of the next football season, but only if the foundation is established with satisfactory terms and conditions. There are many who might wonder why, given that tight timetable, the Treasury is not acting with more urgency.

One person who, in my view, ought to be less than happy with this shambles of a situation, is the sports minister. For he has revealed to me that neither he, nor any official, was invited to the Chancellor's meeting with the pools company to discuss the proposed new scheme. Furthermore, it has not even been decided whether or not he will be represented on the foundation.

This whole sorry mess has at least managed to demonstrate one thing beyond any shadow of a doubt. That is that the wishful thinking of those administrators who initially believed that the John Major/Robert Atkins duo could be some kind of "dream ticket for sport" has proved to be woefully off the mark.

Overlooked in discussions and rebuffed by the Treasury, the sports minister now faces the task being not so much a partner in a "dream ticket" as more of a bit actor in a nightmare scenario.

Sport will think twice, I am sure, before again sending roses to this government, lest it is left holding merely the thorns.
Tom Pendry is Labour MP for Stalybridge and Hyde, chairman of the all-party football committee and chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party sports committee.

FOOTBALL

Revived Liverpool look for another fillip from Derby

By CLIVE WHITE

THE score at the Baseball Ground today, rather than the result, will be what interests Liverpool's supporters. Only an incurable Merseyside optimist would expect Arsenal to trip up against Derby County, but there is great expectation that they will not be able to match the champions' 7-1 victory there last week.

Confidence is never more important than at this stage of the season, when pretenders to the championship title enter the finishing straight and Liverpool, after the month or two they have just had, will be looking for every little boost they can get.

There is a hint that their luck may have already changed, as a couple of wins have coincided with Arsenal dropping four points to con-

Top of first division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	29	18	6	5	48	25	50
Arsenal	29	17	7	5	41	33	48
Manchester United	29	17	7	5	41	33	48
Sheff Wed	29	13	10	6	38	41	36
Sheff Utd	29	13	10	6	38	41	36
Nottingham Forest	29	12	12	5	35	38	36
Derby County	29	11	9	9	41	40	32

cede the leadership to Liverpool by a point. A resurgent Queens' Park Rangers, who are unbeaten in seven games, will provide Liverpool with just the kind of test they need at Anfield.

Liverpool expect to field the same team that put Derby in a spin, which means that Mike Hooper will continue to deputise in goal for Bruce Grobbelaar, who is injured, and Steve Nicol will play despite missing Scotland's match against Bulgaria in midweek with a shoulder injury.

Lineker is told to rest

GARY Lineker, the Tottenham Hotspur and England forward, who was substituted against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley on Wednesday, has been given a break until next Wednesday by Terry Venables, his club manager, in an attempt to regain his sharpness (Dennis Signy writes).

Lineker, who was appointed captain of England by Graham Taylor earlier in the season, misses the home game against Coventry City today and the visit to Luton Town on Monday. He has looked below par in recent matches, registering only four goals for his club, including two penalties, since New Year's Day. He also scored both En-

gland's goals, including one penalty, against Cameroon last month but according to Venables has been "out of sorts and tired" in recent games.

"We hope that he will get his sharpness back. I don't think he has had a break in seasons like most players," Venables said. He made the decision with the FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal next month in mind, since Lineker has been playing with knocks and bruises.

Paul Walsh is the likely deputy to play alongside Philip Gray, the Northern Ireland Under-21 forward, with Paul Stewart being played in a withdrawn role.

First division

Aston Villa v Everton The Aston Villa winger, Daley, is set to make only his second appearance since 1989 after hamstring trouble. Hinchcliffe, sidelined for five matches with a knee injury, and McGall, return for Everton.

Chelsea v Leeds Utd Dixon (hip) and La Saux (scoliosis and suspension) return for Chelsea, who have won one of their last three league games. Leeds include Vardi in a squad of 18 but are likely to be unchanged.

Derby v Arsenal The Derby manager, Arthur Cox, is demanding pride and passion from his team after their defeat against Liverpool, and has added Williams, Pickering and Goo to last week's 13. Arsenal have no injury worries and are likely to be unchanged.

Liverpool v QPR Liverpool retain the 11 that swamped Derby with Hooper again deputising in goal. Niven has recovered from a shoulder injury. QPR, unbeaten for seven games, expect to keep the side that drew 1-1 with Tottenham last week.

Manchester City v Southampton Hendry (virus), Megson (hamstring), Hill (ankle) and Poynton (suspension) are absentees. Gittens, re-signed by Southampton for £400,000 from Swindon after being sold to the Whitehouse club by Southampton four years ago, replaces either Moore or Ruddock.

Norwich v Man Utd Flock, of Norwich, has recovered from an ankle injury that forced him out of midweek international duty and is included in an unchanged squad. Webb returns for United after missing seven games with a cracked rib, once also in a squad of 14.

Sheff Utd v Luton Sheffield United, chasing an eighth win in nine games, can call on Hodges for the Easter programme before he begins a six-match ban. Luton have the defender, James, available after recovering from a head injury received in training.

Sunderland v C Palace Armstrong (shoulder) is fighting to extend his run of 10 consecutive appearances for Sunderland, while Pascoe faces a test after spraining an ankle when training with Wales in Belgium. Pascoe is expected to include Boden, their recent signing from Swindon.

Wolves v QPR Neither side has announced who its starting quarterback will be. Judging by the number of snags he took at practice, Jeff Graham, who completed 14 out of 20 passes against Barcelona Dragons on Sunday, is the favourite for the Knights.

For his part, Larry Kennan, the Monarchs' head coach, declined last night whether John Witkowski or Sean Gelbaugh would be on the field first. He will tell them this morning.

One of a breed players prefer

By CLIVE WHITE

IT IS a fair bet that the Football Writers' Association, when it comes to its turn, will not echo the verdict of the Professional Footballers' Association and pronounce Mark Hughes as the winner of their player of the year award, as the PFA did last Sunday.

On only six occasions since the players' 17 years ago first let the public know what the professionals thought, have the two groups agreed, although there was a suggestion of some unanimity in the mid-Eighties when the two sides arrived at the same conclusion five times out of six. But this year's choice by the PFA is unlikely to concure with the view of most scribes, nor would it appear to have done with that of the public, who chose Paul Gascoigne as the BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

In some ways, Hughes would seem to be less the players' kind of choice than the spectators, whom, we are told, are invariably dazzled by the spectacular to the point where they fail to see simple beauty. When it comes to scoring spectacular goals, Hughes is in a league of his own.

But in most other ways Hughes would seem to be a classic choice by the PFA, a player's player. Ever since Norman "Bitesyerleg" Hunter won their first award, there has been a tendency not to honour the prima donna type and the vote this year would appear to have been as much against Gascoigne, who was third, as for Hughes.

There is no question, though, that the public at large fail to appreciate the full range of Hughes's qualities.

Some might even be astounded that he should have become the first player to win the award twice (he also won it in 1989) when his contemporaries have included players of the calibre of Brady, Delgish and Barnes (the first player to be honoured twice by the FWA).

They might also be taken aback to hear his peers talk of his great touch and technique. Terry Yorath, who manages Hughes at international level, has long been an admirer of Hughes's basic skills. "If you stationed Hughes along with any players you care to choose on the halfway line and got a



Award winner: Hughes's robust approach fails to cloak some extraordinary skills

goalkeeper to bait the ball up to them, Hughes would be the only one, ten times out of ten, who would bring the ball down dead," the Wales manager said.

"His ability to hold up the ball is probably as good as anybody in Europe," Yorath added. "He's a player who's always going to get criticism because of the robust manner in which he plays. But he's never afraid to stick his neck on the line by trying to do things that are foreign to many British players."

Ron Atkinson, who was responsible for unleashing the bristling young Hughes on unsuspecting centre backs some eight years ago, agreed with Yorath that Hughes's ability to receive the ball was possibly without equal in the world. But it was impossible for Atkinson or Yorath to discount the physical aspect of Hughes's play, which many will see as a sad indictment of the modern

game. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, describes him as the Mr Universe among forwards.

"We need to laugh," Atkinson said, "when people spoke about Norman Whiteside being our hard man. But Norman's greatest asset was his fabulous ability. We used to say, 'It's Sparky you want to worry about in that respect, not Norman.'"

Atkinson was surprised that the Spanish public did not take to Hughes when he sold him to Barcelona. Again it was a case of Hughes not being everyone's glass of sangria because the Barcelona players were believed to have appreciated him. "Having worked in Spain and seen what their centre halves are like, I'm amazed he didn't score a 100 goals a season," Atkinson said.

Criticism that Hughes was

a maverick gained more credence when he and Brian McClair again failed to hit it off as a pair last season. While Atkinson conceded that Hughes did have trouble linking-up play with what he described as "the bread and butter stuff", what was lacking was a proper service rather than any intuitive understanding between Hughes and McClair.

The advent of Lee Sharpe this season has provided the wide service that Hughes always enjoyed from the likes of Strachan, Peter Barnes and Olsen.

The timing of Hughes's return to form could not be worse for Atkinson, who as manager of Sheffield Wednesday comes face to face with his protégé in the Rumbelows Cup final on April 21. Thankfully for Atkinson, he knows the best way to handle Hughes: "from a distance", he said.

YACHTING

Best way forward for RAF sailors

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN LA TRINITE, FRANCE

BRITISH crews, led by the Royal Air Force's new Admiral's Cup yacht, Wings of Oracle, carried off the top honours on the opening day of the Spl Oest Regatta here yesterday.

Not only did John Best and his crew lead the Admiral's Cup fleet from start to finish after opening up a 1min 20sec lead over their French two-ton rival, Corum 45, on the first leg of their 15-mile Olympic course, but Chispien Hobson's latest Dubois-designed 54ft racer-cruiser, Dump Truck, overcame the strong Channel handicap fleet.

Less happy were the rest of one-tonners vying for a place in the British Admiral's Cup team. Andrew Hume and his crew, sailing the former top Italian yacht, Amsterdam, now renamed Shirdana, stole a march on the first beat but were beaten as the French Admiral's Cup entry, Corum 40, skippered by Xavier Philippot, despite their third-rank start and an enforced 720 penalty incurred for hitting a mark. That suggests the British have some way to go to improve their speed.

British crews, however, also held sway in the highly competitive J24 class, with Jonathan Clark's Smokey Joe leading the 28-strong fleet during the opening leg of their race, with five of his south coast rivals also contesting places in the top ten.

Reed puts case for boundary

AS THE 18 skippers who remain in the BOC single-handed round the world race prepare to set out from Punta del Este, Uruguay, today on the last stage back to Newport, Rhode Island, a fierce number race beckons as a call from Bertie Reed to set a southern latitude limit in future races (Barry Pickthall writes).

Reed rescued John Martin during the last leg around Cape Horn and was awarded an eight-hour allowance after his fellow South African was forced to abandon his yacht, which was leading, after hitting a chunk of ice, has suggested a limit of 58 or 59 south.

"It is crazy to go further south than that. One skipper (the Hungarian, Nandor Fal) went down as far as 65 south and had to tack round a 30-mile-long iceberg. If he'd got himself into trouble, one of us would have had to have gone down and got him and that would have put two boats at risk. There is still ice at 59 south, but the chance of us hitting it is reduced to around ten per cent," he said.

This third BOC solo circumnavigation has developed into a two-horse race between Alain Gauthier and Christophe Auguin, the Frenchman, Gauthier holds a slender 22-hour lead over his compatriot, leaving Mike Plant, of the United States, and Philippe Jeantot, a former BOC winner, to fight it out for third, a further four-and-a-half days astern.

Josh Hall, of Britain, is fighting to retain a two-hour advantage over Jack Boye, his fourth-placed rival, in Class 2, but Robin Davis, from Cornwall, has a comfortable 13-day margin over Minoru Saito, from Japan, who is in third place in the Corinthian Class. The leaders are expected to reach Newport at the end of April.

LEADING POSITIONS (after three legs): Class 1: 1. Generali Concorde (A Gauthier), 26 days; 2. Sanyo 2 (J Boye), 28 days; 3. Sanyo 1 (M Plant), 28 days; 4. Sanyo 3 (M Plant), 28 days; 5. Sanyo 4 (J Davis), 28 days; 6. Sanyo 5 (J Davis), 28 days; 7. Sanyo 6 (J Davis), 28 days; 8. Sanyo 7 (J Davis), 28 days; 9. Sanyo 8 (J Davis), 28 days; 10. Sanyo 9 (J Davis), 28 days; 11. Sanyo 10 (J Davis), 28 days; 12. Sanyo 11 (J Davis), 28 days; 13. Sanyo 12 (J Davis), 28 days; 14. Sanyo 13 (J Davis), 28 days; 15. Sanyo 14 (J Davis), 28 days; 16. Sanyo 15 (J Davis), 28 days; 17. Sanyo 16 (J Davis), 28 days; 18. Sanyo 17 (J Davis), 28 days; 19. Sanyo 18 (J Davis), 28 days; 20. Sanyo 19 (J Davis), 28 days; 21. Sanyo 20 (J Davis), 28 days; 22. Sanyo 21 (J Davis), 28 days; 23. Sanyo 22 (J Davis), 28 days; 24. Sanyo 23 (J Davis), 28 days; 25. Sanyo 24 (J Davis), 28 days; 26. Sanyo 25 (J Davis), 28 days; 27. Sanyo 26 (J Davis), 28 days; 28. Sanyo 27 (J Davis), 28 days; 29. 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